

# Mol Biol 3A03 Current Topics in Molecular Biology

**Term II : Jan-April 2019**

**Focus: Molecular Biology in Medicine and Biology**

**Instructor: Dr. Herb E. Schellhorn schell@mcmaster.ca**

Teaching Assistant: Luke Bayer

**Place:** Wednesday BSB121 13:30-14:20 am and Thursday BSB 8:30-10:30 am

**Format:** One lecture + One 2 hour tutorial sessions per week

Office Hours: Tuesdays 9:30 am-1130am or by appointment

## **COURSE EVALUATION**

Two Presentations (10% Group, 20% Individual); Term paper (30%); Quizzes (20%); Participation and notebook (20%)

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OUTLINE**

The course will cover a wide range of topics focusing on the role of Molecular Biology in solving problems including diagnosis and treatment of disease, including Cardiovascular Disease, Cancer, Nutrition, Ageing, Neurodegeneration, Gastrointestinal disease. This is a research seminar course designed to train students to critically evaluate scientific writing and articles and to present their critics in a concise, well organized and coherent fashion. Presentations will begin Jan 22, 2018. If student misses a class without a legitimate excuse, he/she will forfeit 5% of the course mark.

## **COURSE EVALUATION**

### **1. Presentation/term paper/quizzes (80%)**

#### **One Individual and One Group Presentation**

(30 minutes presentation + 15 minutes discussion): **30%**

Organization; Thoroughness of information

Background review/information; Clarity of Voice and Delivery Visual aids; Familiarity with the materials; Handling Questions Electronic copy power point presentation is due the day of presentation Students will be evaluated by the whole class (average of class scores will make up 15% and will be averaged with the instructor/TA score of 15%)

#### **Quizzes at the end of presentation **20%****

Presenter will post three multiple choice questions at the beginning of his/her presentation which will have to be answered by each student on MCQ answer sheet to be handed in at the end of presentation.

#### **One term paper (due April 3, 2018) **30%****

A review of the subject of the presentation (5 pages single spaced) 1-2 original diagrams to illustrate conclusions of article. This will be posted to a course wiki page.

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### 2. Participation/Note book (20%)

**Participation:** Attentiveness , Relevant questions, Constructive comments **10%**

*Students will rank all other participants immediately before the mid semester break and at the end to the course. This ranking will be combined with the instructor ranking to yield the participation score.*

**Notebook:** **10%**

Keep a notebook to take informal/rough notes of the presentations and to document your thoughts and impressions. Due Mar 28, 2019.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Attention is drawn to the Statement on Academic Integrity as found in the Senate Policy Statements distributed at registration and available in the Senate Office or the Office of Academic Integrity. Any student who infringes any one of these resolutions will be treated according to published policy—

[www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf](http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf) Students are warned that any plagiarism, including failing to properly cite sources, rephrasing ideas presented in publications and copying verbatim or with slight modification, will be subject McMaster's Policies on Academic Integrity.

**Assignments** McMaster subscribes to Turnit, a service that checks material for possible duplication and has adopted the following policy

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Consistent with this policy, we will check assignments for originality.

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### 2019 Winter Term (62 days)

Item	Date(s)
Classes begin	Monday, January 7
Last day for enrollment (registration) and changes	Tuesday, January 15
Mid-term recess	Monday, February 18 to Sunday, February 24
Last day for cancelling courses without failure by default	Friday, March 15
Test and Examination Ban (no tests or exams may be held during this period)	Wednesday April 3 to Wednesday, April 10
Classes End	Tuesday, April 9
Good Friday: No classes or examinations	Friday, April 19
Final Examinations	Thursday, April 11 to Monday, April 29
Deferred examinations	Monday, June 24 to Thursday, June 27

**Schedule Note this is tentative and will be adjusted to include lectures**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
January 9	<b>Introduction</b>
January 10	Workshop, giving talks, making a publication figure, graphical abstract
January 16	Molecular Biology – history and challenges
January 17	Individual Presentations
January 24	
February 31	
February 7	
<b>February 14</b>	<b>Due date for Notebook and draft term paper</b>
<b>February 19-25</b>	<b>Midterm Recess</b>
February 26	Group presentations
March 5	
March 12	
March 19	
<b>March 24</b>	
March 29	Group presentations/Wrap up