

BIOL 465 (CRN 10356 - A01)
Molecular Biology of Cancer
Fall 2015
Tues/Wed/Fri 8:30 am - 9:30 pm
Location: Engineering Comp Science Bldg 116

Lecture: ECS 116 Tues/Wed/Fri 8:30 am - 9:30 am
Office: Cunningham 257 Tues and Fri 9:30 am - 10:30 am

Instructors: Dr. Patrick Walter	Email: pwalter@uvic.ca
Dr. Julian Lum	Email: JLum@bccancer.bc.ca
Dr. Mary Wagner	Email: wagnerm@uvic.ca

Description:

This course will cover molecular events that lead to cancer. The course will be divided into sections structured around the major types of cancer, including leukemia, breast, prostate and colorectal cancer. Special emphasis will be placed on understanding the signal transduction pathways important in driving tumorigenesis in each of the sites, in particular the role of tumor suppressors and oncogenes. We will also discuss the role of stem cells, and the concept of the cancer stem cell. The course will consist of formal lectures and assigned journal article reading from the current literature, discussions and class questions using TopHat (an electronic interactive lecture experience, described below). The goal of the journal article reading, discussions and questions will be to create an interactive environment to introduce students to the role of scientific discovery in the development of ideas in understanding cancer mechanisms and treatments. The use of genetic tools such as transgenic and knockout mouse models to dissect oncogenic pathways will be examined, and experimental design will be discussed. Students are expected to have familiarity with cell biology and cell signaling – i.e. have taken biology 360, bioc 300, and/or bioc 403. For those students who wish to review this material, there is an excellent textbook by Dr. Robert A. Weinberg, “The Biology of Cancer” by Garland Science (ISBN 9780815342205) that is recommended. This is not a required text but is a useful reference for students who feel they have a deficiency in their background or who simply learn better from textbooks.

Description from the UVic Calendar:

Units: 1.5, Hours: 3-0

Clinical terminology, concepts of cancer epidemiology, DNA mutation and repair, molecular basis of cell cycle regulation, cell proliferation and apoptosis. Special emphasis on chemotherapy, gene therapy, diet and cancer, and the immunology of cancer

Prerequisites: BIOL 225, 230, 360

Office Hours:

Cunningham 257 - 9:30 – 10:30 Tuesdays and Fridays – The instructor that teaches the lecture that follows will be present. Dr. Walter is adjunct faculty and therefore has limited time on campus, and Drs. Lum and Wagner are not on campus except for this course. If these times conflict with your schedule, e-mail to set up an alternate time.

Moodle CourseSpaces:

This course uses the university Moodle-CourseSpaces learning/teaching resource. To access this Course, use your Netlink ID and password and log onto CourseSpaces from your Mypage area (<https://www.uvic.ca/mypage/>).

We will post the course notes outline, journal article guidelines and other important information through this site. We will also post the PowerPoint presentation (in pdf format) for each lecture prior to each class. You may choose to print the slides and add notes to them during class. Please check Moodle- CourseSpaces regularly, as this is where course announcements will be posted.

Top Hat:

We will be using TopHat as an additional interactive question resource this year. TopHat will be worth 9% where 3% are participation bonus marks and 6% are marked and are a part of the course total. Review questions, and discussions of scientific papers, and in-class questions will be posted using this site. It is recommended that all students purchase a TopHat account.

You can visit tinyurl.com/StudentStartGuide for Top Hat's Student Quick Start Guide which outlines how you will register for a Top Hat account, as well as providing a brief overview to get you up and running on the system.

Once you have registered and entered in your subscription code, your course can be directly accessed via the following:

Top Hat course name: **The Molecular Basis of Cancer”**

Direct URL: <https://app-ca.tophat.com/e/635268>

6-digit course code: **635268**

Course Text:

The Biology of Cancer by Robert A. Weinberg. ***This text is recommended, but not required.*** This text is now available in a digital format and is a great text with extensive clinical information. If you intend to continue studying in the medical field, it would be a good reference text for you to own. We will NOT be covering all the material in the text. The primary source of information will be the lecture slides covered in class. Two copies of the textbook are on reserve in the library. There also may be second hand copies of the text which may be available from the Used Book Store.

Assigned Material and Journal Articles:

Because there is not an assigned text for the course, topics will be drawn from primary and review articles from the scientific literature which will be assigned during class and links posted on Moodle CourseSpaces. Lecture time will be allocated to going over the papers as part of class discussion. Reading assignments are mandatory and will be included in the evaluation (ie on the midterm and final exams). In addition, when readings are assigned for a discussion lecture, students must come to the lecture prepared to discuss the paper and having read the assigned reading. Students are also expected to attend all the lectures, to take notes and to participate in discussions. Questions will be asked during class using TopHat throughout the term. Questions on each journal article will be tested on the midterms and final exam. More details regarding the journal articles and sample exam questions will be available on Moodle CourseSpaces. Journal article discussion questions will be posted using TopHat in class.

Course Evaluation:

23% Midterm I – Wednesday Oct 7 (50 min in class, cumulative, includes journal articles). No make-up tests; a grade of zero will be given unless a medical excuse is provided.

23% Midterm II – Wednesday Nov 4 (50 min in class, cumulative, includes journal articles). No make-up tests; a grade of zero will be given unless a medical excuse is provided.

48% Final exam - Date TBA, Tuesday Apr 7th or thereafter (3 hours, cumulative)

Must be completed to receive a final grade for the course. Deferred exams will be handled as outlined in the University of Victoria calendar.

6% - Graded Course Marks for Top Hat questions and activities.

3% - Bonus participation Marks for Top Hat questions and activities (must complete 70% or more of the questions during class).

Students are expected to be present for all midterm and final exams on the specified dates. Failure to write a midterm test will result in a grade of 0% for the exam unless for illness, accident, or family affliction, and students must provide the appropriate documentation within 48 hours after the midterm exam. Students who miss the first midterm exam for one of the legitimate, documented reasons listed above will have the weight of the exam added to the next midterm and final (11.5% and 11.5% respectively). Students who miss the second midterm exam for one of the legitimate, documented, reasons listed above, will have the weight of the exam added to midterm1 (11.5%) and the final exam (11.5%). Students who miss both midterm 1 and 2 must write a deferred exam within 10 business days of the midterm 2 date.

N grades

Students who have completed the following elements will be considered to have completed the course and will be assigned a final grade: Midterm 1 or 2; Final Exam

Failure to complete one or more of these elements will result in a grade of “N” regardless of the cumulative percentage on other elements of the course. An N is a failing grade, and it factors into a student’s GPA as 0. The maximum percentage that can accompany an N on a student’s transcript is 49.

Therefore, students must write at least one midterm exam and the final exam to pass the course. Deferral of a final exam must be requested with an Academic Concession form and submitted directly to Undergraduate Records. Deferred final exams will be arranged by the instructor in the first two weeks of January. Travel is not an acceptable reason to miss the deferred final exam date.

Students are expected to take notes during class, copies of slides will be provided on moodle before class, however these notes should not be considered complete and students are responsible for all material discussed in class, drawn on board etc. Plagiarism and copying are all academic offences and submitted material must be your own work. Grading will be based on answering of short and long answer exam questions. The exams will test the student’s ability to think and incorporate concepts and ideas, and design experiments. Understanding of material will be tested and memorizing the lecture handouts will not be sufficient. Students are expected to have completed 3rd year Cell biology and Biochemistry, and the onus is on students to review pertinent material as needed.

The total mark, calculated from the marks on all of the exams and TopHat questions according to the weighting scheme above, will be converted to a percentage and then to a letter grade in the following way on the next page (Please note the recent changes):

Your final overall mark in the course will be given as a percent and a Letter Grade based on the following guidelines: A+ = 90-100%, A = 85-89.9%, A- = 80-84.9%, B+ = 77-79.9%, B = 73-

76.9%, B- = 70-72.9%, C+ = 65-69.9%, C = 60-64.9%, D = 50-59.9%, F = 0-49.9% (if all requirements completed), N (if not all requirements completed). Please see details below.

You are not allowed to cheat or plagiarize in this course, as outlined in the University of Victoria calendar. This course will strive to be an inclusive and safe learning environment recognizing the diversity of the students and their opinions as outlined in the University calendar.

For questions regarding lecture material, students should go to the instructor for that particular topic. General concerns and questions about marks should be addressed to Dr. Walter as course administrator.

Revised UVic Grading Scheme (effective May 1, 2012)

Passing Grades	Grade Point Value	Percentage for Instructor Use Only *	Description
A+ A A-	9 8 7	90 – 100 85 – 89 80 – 84	Exceptional, outstanding and excellent performance. Normally achieved by a minority of students. These grades indicate a student who is self-initiating, exceeds expectation and has an insightful grasp of the subject matter.
B+ B B-	6 5 4	77 – 79 73 – 76 70 – 72	Very good, good and solid performance. Normally achieved by the largest number of students. These grades indicate a good grasp of the subject matter or excellent grasp in one area balanced with satisfactory grasp in the other area.
C+ C	3 2	65 – 69 60 – 64	Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory. These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.
D	1	50 – 59	Marginal Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.
F	0	0-49	Unsatisfactory performance. Wrote final examination and completed course requirements; no supplemental.
N	0	0-49	Did not write examination or complete course requirements by the end of term or session; no supplemental.

Provisional Lecture Schedule 2015 (Changes may be necessary)

Week 1: SEMESTER STARTS Wed Sept. 9 ENDS Fri Dec. 4th 2015

1. Wed Sept 9. Introductions/Outline/Cancer Overview and Hallmarks – Walter.
2. Fri Sept 11. 1. Hallmarks of Cancer: Introduction to concepts, terms and overview, defining the hallmarks – Walter

Week 2:

3. Tues Sept 15. Finish Hallmarks of cancer - Walter
4. Wed Sept 16. Mechanisms of cancer development: 1) The relationship between cancer & DNA damage – Walter
5. Fri Sept 18. 2) Oncogenes, and tumor suppressors how they relate to the hallmarks of cancer
Walter

Week 3:

Tues Sept 22 Last day for 100% reduction of first-term fees

6. Tues Sept 22. Oncogenic addiction – Walter
7. Wed Sept 23. Melanoma and B-Raf mutations – Walter

Fri Sept 25 Last day for adding courses that begin in the second term

8. Fri Sept 25. Melanoma and B-Raf mutations – Walter

Week 4:

9. Tues Sept 29. Introduction to Leukemia, Chronic myelogenous Leukemia – Walter.
10. Wed Sept 30 AML and introduction to stem cells – Walter
11. Fri Oct 2. 8. AML and stem cells – Walter

Week 5:

12. Tues Oct 6. Liver cancer and Hepatocytes and iron and cancer – Walter /study info for midterm1 October 7
13. **Wed Oct 7. Midterm I (Walter)**
14. Fri Oct 9. Colon cancer introduction – Walter

Week 6:

Monday Oct. 12 Thanksgiving day

Tues Oct 13 Last day for 50% reduction of tuition fees for standard courses

15. Tues Oct 13 Colon cancer – Walter
16. Wed Oct 14 Colon cancer – Walter
17. Fri Oct 16 introduction to Hormone driven cancers - Prostate cancer - Walter

Week 7:

18. Tues Oct 20. CNS cancer – Minkley
19. Wed Oct 21. Breast Cancer and DNA repair genes – Dr. P. MacLeod
20. Fri Oct 23. Environment and Breast Cancer – Wagner

Week 8:

21. Tues Oct 27. Breast Cancer and Environment – Wagner
 22. Wed Oct 28. Breast cancer vs. prostate cancer – involvement of testosterone – Walter
 23. Fri Oct 30. Breast cancer vs. prostate cancer – involvement of hormones – Walter
- #### **Sat Oct 31 Last Day to Drop Courses without Failure**

Week 9:

24. Tues Nov 3. Exome analysis - T cell therapy – Lum
25. **Wed Nov 4. Midterm II (Walter)**
26. Fri Nov 6. Molecular Cancer Topics / inherited cancer – Lum

Week 10:

Monday, Nov. 9 -11 Reading break, Remembrance Day

27. Fri Nov 13. Ovarian Cancer topics/stem cells – Lum

Week 11:

28. Tues Nov 17. Introduction to Ovarian Cancer - Lum
29. Wed Nov 18. Angiogenesis introduction – Lum

30. Fri Nov 20. Angiogenesis – Lum

Week 12:

31. Tues Nov 24. . Introduction to Autophagy and cancer– Lum

32. Wed Nov 25. Autophagy – Lum

33. Fri Nov 27– Autophagy - Lum

Week 13:

34. Tues Dec 1. Apoptosis and cancer – Walter

35. Wed Dec 2. Apoptosis and Targeted cancer therapies – Walter

36. Fri Dec 4 Last class. Targeted cancer therapies – Walter - **National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. Classes and exams cancelled from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm.**

EXAM PERIOD Tues Dec 7-Wed Dec 22