

**MICR302**  
**Molecular Microbiology**  
**Summer 2019**

**Class time/location:** Mon, Weds, Thurs, 10:30am-12:20pm. Cornett building A229.

**Instructor:** Dr. Lisa Reynolds (July 3-July 29)

**Office hours:** TBA

**Room:** Petch 250

**e-mail:** [lisareynolds@uvic.ca](mailto:lisareynolds@uvic.ca)

**Instructor:** Dr. Doug Briant (July 31-Aug 15)

**Office hours:** TBA

**Room:** Petch 182

**e-mail:** [dbriant@uvic.ca](mailto:dbriant@uvic.ca)

***Prerequisites:***

MICR 200A and MICR 200B; and  
BIOC 299 or BIOC 300A.

***Textbook:*** Since the course material is as up-to-date as possible, there is no course textbook. Much of the source material (papers) will be provided online on the CourseSpaces site, and will serve as an additional resource. You will need your UVic NetLink ID and password to access this information.

It is, however, recommended that you have easy access to a standard microbiology textbook.

***Lecture Notes:*** Notes will generally be made available on the CourseSpaces site prior to lectures. Notes are arranged by topic, and a single topic may span multiple lectures.

***Lecture notes are not complete,*** and students will be responsible for all materials covered in the lectures.

***MICR302 course learning objectives:***

- In this course, you will gain the tools to recognize relationships between DNA, RNA and protein. Applying these tools, you will be able to evaluate the specific contributions of different molecular mechanisms that microbes utilize to respond to environmental changes.
- You will have the ability to compare microbial communication and signalling strategies.
- You will be able to give examples of how the microbiome contributes to human health.
- You will be able to critically analyse and interpret primary scientific literature.
- You will be able to discuss the utility of budding yeast a model eukaryotic system, and discuss several systems biology approaches that are revolutionizing research in molecular biology.

By the end of the course, it is expected that each student will be capable of examining a biological response and hypothesizing which underlying genetic and/or biochemical process defines the response. Students will then be able to design experiments, including all relevant controls, to test their proposed hypothesis.

***Important dates and evaluation:***

<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>Date</b>
25% LAR Exam 1	<b>1 hr 45 mins – in class</b> July 15, 2019
5% LAR Assignment	<b>in class, group submission</b> July 24, 2019
35% LAR Exam 2	<b>1 hr 45 mins – in class</b> July 29, 2019
5% DJB Assignment	<b>in class</b> Aug 7, 2019
30% DJB Exam	<b>1 hr 45 mins – in class</b> Aug 15, 2019

- Students are responsible for ensuring that they are properly registered in the course.
- Students are expected to have met all pre/co-requisites for the course (see above).

***Grading:***

<b>A+</b> 90 -100	<b>B+</b> 77 - 79	<b>C+</b> 65 - 69	<b>F</b> < 50
<b>A</b> 85 - 89	<b>B</b> 73 - 76	<b>C</b> 60 - 64	<b>N **</b> < 50
<b>A-</b> 80 - 84	<b>B-</b> 70 - 72	<b>D</b> 50 - 59	

\*\* N grades

Students who have completed the following elements will be considered to have completed the course and will be assigned a final grade:

***All three exams must be completed to complete the course***

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.

**Tentative class schedule:**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>1. Introduction</b>	
<b>2. DNA</b> - DNA structure and expression	Bacterial gene architecture, $\sigma$ factors, comparison between prokaryotic and eukaryotic systems
<b>3. RNA</b> - RNA structure and regulation - CRISPR	mRNA stability, riboswitches RNA silencing in prokaryotes, gene editing
<b>4. Protein</b> - Two component systems - Protein splicing - Translational surveillance	Introduction to prokaryotic protein signaling, applications Identification and destruction of aberrant proteins in prokaryotes
<b>5. Response to environmental conditions</b>	- Heat shock - Stationary phase - Stringent response
<b>6. Microbiome</b>	Impact of the microbiome on human health
<b>7. Community signaling</b> - Environmental and community	Two component systems, quorum sensing and bacterial communication, importance of biofilms
<b>8. Motility</b>	Chemotaxis and sporulation
<b>9. Budding yeast: a model eukaryote</b>	Lifecycle, examples of conserved signal transduction pathways, advanced molecular, genetic and proteomic techniques
<b>10. Systems and synthetic biology</b>	How budding yeast tools enable high-throughput genomic and proteomic interrogation of biology

## **DEPARTMENT INFORMATION AND POLICIES**

1. The Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology upholds and enforces the University's policies on academic integrity. These policies are described in the current University Calendar. All students are advised to read this section.
2. Cell phones, computers, and other electronic devices must be turned off at all times unless being used for a purpose relevant to the class. Students having a cell phone, tablet, or computer on their person during an exam will be assumed to have it for the purpose of cheating.
3. Any recordings of lectures may only be performed with written permission of the instructor, and are for personal use only. The instructor retains copyright to such recordings and all lecture materials provided for the class (electronic and otherwise); these materials must not be shared or reposted on the Internet.
4. Course materials, such as notes, problem sheets, quizzes, examinations, example sheets, or review sheets, may not be redistributed without the explicit written permission of the instructor.
5. Students are expected to be present for the midterm and final exams. Instructors may grant deferrals for midterm examinations for illness, accident, or family affliction, and students must provide appropriate documentation 48 hours after the midterm exam. The Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology considers it a breach of academic integrity for a student taking a deferred examination to discuss the exam with classmates. Similarly, students who reveal the contents of an examination to students taking a deferred examination are considered to be in violation of the University of Victoria policy on academic integrity (see current University Calendar). Deferral of a final exam must be requested with an Academic Concession form and submitted directly to Undergraduate Records. Deferred final exams for fall term courses will be arranged by the instructor. Deferred final exams for spring term courses will be arranged through Undergraduate Records and must be written before the end of the summer term as stipulated in the University Calendar.
6. Multiple choice scan sheets for machine scoring (bubble sheets) are considered the authentic exam answer paper and will be retained by the department for 1 year.
7. Professors may refuse to review/remark exams not written in indelible ink. In addition, requests for review/remark of a midterm exam must be made within one week of the exam being returned. Students are expected to promptly pick up midterm exams after marking has been completed, either in class or from the instructor.
8. Examination papers that have pages removed, or are mutilated will not be marked.

9. The instructor reserves the right to use plagiarism detection software or other platforms to assess the integrity of student work.”

10. Supplemental exams or assignments will not be offered to students wishing to upgrade their final mark.

### **Centre for Accessible Learning**

*Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, approach the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) as soon as possible in order to assess your specific needs. <https://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/index.php>*

### **Course Experience Survey (CES)**

*We value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term you will have the opportunity to complete a confidential course experience survey (CES) regarding your learning experience. The survey is vital to provide feedback regarding the course and our teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. When it is time for you to complete the survey, you will receive an email inviting you to do so. If you do not receive an email invitation, you can go directly to your [CES dashboard](#). You will need to use your UVic NetLink ID to access the survey, which can be done on your laptop, tablet or mobile device. We will remind you nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity*