



COURSE OUTLINE

1. **Course:** CMMB 561, (MDSC 561) Cancer Biology - Winter 2024

Lecture 01 : TR 15:30 - 16:45 in HS 1405A

Instructor	Email	Phone	Office	Hours
Dr Gareth Williams	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA

Course Description: Advances in methodology and in theoretical concepts have permitted continuing breakthroughs in our understanding of the organismal, cellular and molecular biology of cancer cells, and in the development of novel strategies for cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment. These advances will be presented in a comprehensive overview of cancer including issues of demographics and incidence, causation and detection, origins and progression and therapeutics approaches. Emphasis will be placed on the cell and molecular biology of cancer and on the interaction of the cancer cell with the host organism.

Overarching Theme: This course will explore the nature of cancer, including its global burden, the hallmarks that are common among most cancers, how cancer is caused and treated, including an exploration of emerging therapeutics.

Global Objectives:

- To gain a comprehensive understanding of cancer – what it is, how it arises and how it is treated.
- To engage students in active discussion of topical issues in cancer biology
- To introduce students to the breadth and excitement of cancer research

Course Learning Outcomes: By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the scale of cancer burden globally.
2. Describe the hallmarks of cancer and their interplay in cancer development, tumour growth and spread.
3. Understand molecular mechanisms underlying the common causes of cancer including viruses, environmental toxins, radiation and genetics.
4. Define categories of anti-cancer therapies (including chemotherapy, radiotherapy, precision, immunotherapy), their history and emerging therapeutic approaches.
5. Understand the major challenges of cancer research and treatment including cancer heterogeneity, therapy resistance and limitations of animal models.

Transferable Skill Development:

Many of the skills and abilities that you are developing in your coursework are transferable to the workforce, graduate and professional studies and other facets of life. Employers seek applicants with transferable skills because they can be an asset in the workplace, regardless of industry or sector. Transferable skills are core skills for your success in building your future career.

The work that you will do in MDSC/CMMB 561 will help you build the following transferable skills:

- **Verbal Communication:** Learn and share information by asking questions in class, listening, and interacting with others.
- **Creativity and Innovation:** Being curious, thinking imaginatively.
- **Critical Thinking:** Actively and skillfully conceptualize, apply, analyze, synthesize, and/or evaluate information (data, facts, published research findings) to make a reasoned judgement or draw a reasonable conclusion.
- **Information Literacy:** Find, understand, use and connect information presented through words, symbols, and images
- **Written Communication:** Link together and share research results, ideas and information using your own words.

To account for any necessary transition to remote learning for the current semester, courses with in-person lectures, labs, or tutorials may be shifted to remote delivery for a certain period of time. In addition, adjustments may be made to the modality and format of assessments and deadlines, as well as to other course components and/or requirements, so that all coursework tasks are in line with the necessary and evolving health precautions for all involved (students and staff).

In Person Delivery Details:

Time and Location:

Tuesdays and Thursdays (starting January 9th) 3:30pm – 4:45pm (see class schedule on PDF outline posted on D2L for specific dates)

Health Sciences Centre, 1405A

Instructors:

Course coordinator & instructor:

Dr. Gareth Williams, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Charbonneau Cancer Institute

Gareth.williams2@ucalgary.ca

Instructors:

Dr. Aaron Goodarzi, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and Oncology

Charbonneau Cancer Institute

aagoodar@ucalgary.ca

Dr. Jennifer Corcoran, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Microbiology, Immunology and Infectious Disease

Charbonneau Cancer Institute

jennifer.corcoran@ucalgary.ca

Dr. Franz Zemp, Ph.D.

Synthetic Immunology Team Lead, Alberta Cellular Therapy Immunoncology Initiative

Charbonneau Cancer Institute/Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute

fjzemp@ucalgary.ca

Dr. Susan Lees-Miller, Ph.D.

Professor, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Charbonneau Cancer Institute

leesmill@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours/Policy on Answering Student Emails

All course communications must occur through your @ucalgary email, and the instructors will attempt to respond to emails sent via student's @ucalgary emails within 48 hours (excluding weekends and statutory holidays).

Course Site:

D2L: CMMB 561 L01-(Winter 2024)-(MDSC 561) Cancer Biology

Note: Students must use their U of C account for all course correspondence.

Learning Technology Requirements

Brightspace (by D2L) is located on the University of Calgary server and will be used extensively for communication with students. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that they receive all posted communications and documents and that they receive emails sent by instructors or fellow students through D2L.

Only your @ucalgary.ca email address may be linked to D2L. Please ensure that you are regularly checking your @ucalgary.ca account.

A laptop, desktop, tablet or mobile device is required for D2L access. If you need help accessing or using D2L, please visit the Desire2Learn resource page for students: <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/d2l-student/>.

Equity Diversity & Inclusion:

The University of Calgary is committed to creating an equitable, diverse and inclusive campus, and condemns harm and discrimination of any form. We value all persons regardless of their race, gender, ethnicity, age, LGBTQIA2S+ identity and expression, disability, religion, spirituality, and socioeconomic status. The Faculty of Science strives to extend these values in every aspect of our courses, research, and teachings to better promote academic excellence and foster belonging for all.

The Biological Sciences Equity Committee acknowledges there are persistent barriers that prevent such accessibility and hinder our progress towards EDI. Our representatives (faculty, staff, postdocs, graduate and undergraduate students) are committed to addressing any concerns and work towards proactive solutions that enact necessary change within the department. To submit anonymous questions, comments or concerns regarding EDI related issues, please reach out to our Chair, Arshad Ayyaz (arshad.ayyaz@ucalgary.ca), or a committee representative of your choice at <https://science.ucalgary.ca/biological-sciences/about/equity-diversity-and-inclusion>

2. Requisites:

See section [3.5.C](#) in the Faculty of Science section of the online Calendar.

Prerequisite(s):

Biochemistry 341 or 393; and Biology 311 or Medical Science 341; and Biology 331 or Medical Science 351; and Cellular, Molecular and Microbial Biology 411 or Medical Science 408. Also known as: (Medical Science 561)

3. Grading:

The University policy on grading and related matters is described in [F.1](#) and [F.2](#) of the online University Calendar.

In determining the overall grade in the course the following weights will be used:

Course Component	Weight	Due Date (duration for exams)	Modality for exams	Location for exams
In-Class Quiz, closed book	10%	Jan 30 2024		
Mid-term 1	20%	Feb 13 2024 at 03:00 pm (75 Minutes)	in-person	HSC 1405A
Mid-term 2	25%	Mar 19 2024 at 03:00 pm (75 Minutes)	in-person	HSC 1405A
Written assignment ¹	25%	Apr 12 2024		
Registrar Scheduled Final Exam	20%	Will be available when the final exam schedule is released by the Registrar	in person	Will be available when the final exam schedule is released by the Registrar

¹ Full details of written assignment will be provided on March 28th and the final paper due end of day April 12th.

Each piece of work (reports, assignments, quizzes, midterm exam(s) or final examination) submitted by the student will be assigned a grade. The student's grade for each component listed above will be combined with the indicated weights to produce an overall percentage for the course, which will be used to determine the course letter grade.

The conversion between a percentage grade and letter grade is as follows.

	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D
Minimum % Required	96 %	90 %	85 %	80%	75%	70 %	65 %	60%	57%	54 %	50 %

This course will have a Registrar Scheduled Final exam that will be delivered in-person and on campus. [The Final Examination Schedule](#) will be published by the Registrar's Office approximately one month after the start of the term. The final exam for this course will be designed to be completed within 2 hours.

The University of Calgary offers a [flexible grade option](#), Credit Granted (CG) to support student's breadth of learning and student wellness. Faculty units may have additional requirements or restrictions for the use of the CG grade at the faculty, degree or program level. To see the full list of Faculty of Science courses where CG is not eligible, please visit the following website: <https://science.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate/program-advising/flexible-grading-option-cg-grade>

4. Missed Components Of Term Work:

In the event that a student legitimately fails to submit any online or in-person assessment on time (e.g. due to illness, domestic affliction, etc...), please contact the course coordinator, or the course instructor if this course does not have a coordinator to arrange for a re-adjustment of a submission date, or possible exemption and reweighing of components. Absences not reported within 48 hours will not be accommodated. Students may be asked to provide supporting documentation ([Section M.1](#)) for an excused absence, See [FAQ](#).

If an excused absence is approved, options for how the missed assessment is dealt with is at the discretion of the coordinator or course instructor. Some options such as an exemption and pro-rating among the components of the course may not be a viable option based on the design of this course.

Missed Components of Term Work:

Late completion of assignments: Students will lose 5% per day late past the deadline for all assignments. Assignments will NOT be accepted more than 72 hours after the posted deadline and students failing to submit any assignment within this time frame will receive a mark of zero. Students who miss a quiz/exam will receive a mark of zero unless the instructor has been previously notified.

As per University Calendar Section G.1.2, students who are absent from an in-class assessment will receive a mark of zero on the missed component. Students who are absent are responsible for contacting their instructor to discuss the impact of their missed assessment. The instructor may ask for supporting documentation to confirm an absence. Alternative opportunities for completing missed assessments or shifting of the assessment weight may be possible but are not guaranteed. Students who are identified as falsifying information related to missed assessments will be subject to investigation for academic misconduct.

Extensions will NOT be granted on any assignment or quizzes in MDSC/CMMB 561. The only exceptions to this are those

in keeping with the University Calendar (debilitating illness, religious conviction, or severe domestic affliction) that are received in writing and with supporting documentation. Traffic jams and late or full buses are common events in Calgary and are NOT acceptable reasons for late arrivals to class, meetings and examinations. Please note that while absences are permitted for religious reasons, students are responsible for providing advance notice and adhering to other guidelines on this matter, as outlined in the University Calendar (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-4.html>).

5. Scheduled Out-of-Class Activities:

There are no scheduled out of class activities for this course.

6. Course Materials:

Learning Resources There is no required textbook for this course.

Recommended Textbooks/Readings

Recommended readings will be uploaded onto the classes D2L.

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam/Camera (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Stable internet connection.

For more information please refer to the UofC [ELearning](#) online website.

7. Examination Policy:

No aids are allowed on quiz, mid-terms or final exams (i.e. closed book).

Students should also read the Calendar, [Section G](#), on Examinations.

8. Approved Mandatory And Optional Course Supplemental Fees:

There are no mandatory or optional course supplemental fees for this course.

9. Writing Across The Curriculum Statement:

For all components of the course, in any written work, the quality of the student's writing (language, spelling, grammar, presentation etc.) can be a factor in the evaluation of the work. See also Section [E.2](#) of the University Calendar.

A Note regarding Writing Assignments:

Writing skills are important to academic study in all disciplines. In keeping with the University of Calgary's emphasis on the importance of academic writing in student assignments (section E.2 of 2023-24 Calendar), writing is emphasized, and the grading thereof in determining a student's mark in this course. The Bachelor of Health Sciences values excellence in writing. Competence in writing entails skills in crafting logical, clear, coherent, non-redundant sentences, paragraphs and broader arguments, as well as skills with the mechanics of writing (grammar, spelling, punctuation). Sources used in research papers must be properly documented. The University of Calgary offers instructional services through the Students' Success Centre's Writing Support Services (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/writingsupport/>) for students seeking feedback on assignments or seeking to improve their general writing skills. Students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of these programs.

10. Human & Living Organism Studies Statements:

Students will not participate as subjects or researchers in human studies.

See also [Section E.5](#) of the University Calendar.

STUDIES IN THE BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES INVOLVE THE USE OF LIVING AND DEAD ORGANISMS. Students taking laboratory and field-based courses in these disciplines can expect involvement with and experimentation on such materials. Students perform dissections on dead or preserved organisms in some courses. In particular courses, students experiment on living organisms, their tissues, cells, or molecules. Sometimes field work requires students to collect a variety of living materials by many methods, including humane trapping.

All work on humans and other animals conforms to the Helsinki Declaration and to the regulations of the Canadian Council on Animal Care. The Department strives for the highest ethical standards consistent with stewardship of the environment for organisms whose use is not governed by statutory authority. Individuals contemplating taking courses or majoring in one of the fields of study offered by the Department of Biological Sciences should ensure that they have fully considered these issues before enrolling. Students are advised to discuss any concern they might have with the Undergraduate Program Director of the Department.

Students are expected to be familiar with [Section SC.4.1](#) of the University Calendar.

11. Reappraisal Of Grades:

A student wishing a reappraisal, should first attempt to review the graded work with the Course coordinator/instructor or department offering the course. Students with sufficient academic grounds may request a reappraisal. Non-academic grounds are not relevant for grade reappraisals. Students should be aware that the grade being reappraised may be raised, lowered or remain the same. See [Section I.3](#) of the University Calendar.

a. **Term Work:** The student should present their rationale as effectively and as fully as possible to the Course coordinator/instructor within ten business days of either being notified about the mark, or of the item's return to the class. If the student is not satisfied with the outcome, the student shall submit the Reappraisal of Graded Term work [form](#) to the department in which the course is offered within 2 business days of receiving the decision from the instructor. The Department will arrange for a reappraisal of the work within the next ten business days. The reappraisal will only be considered if the student provides a detailed rationale that outlines where and for what reason an error is suspected. See sections [I.1](#) and [I.2](#) of the University Calendar

b. **Final Exam:** The student shall submit the request to Enrolment Services. See [Section I.3](#) of the University Calendar.

12. Other Important Information For Students:

a. **Mental Health** The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the SU Wellness Centre (Room 370, MacEwan Student Centre, [Mental Health Services Website](#)) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy website ([Mental Health](#)).

b. **SU Wellness Services:** For more information, see their [website](#) or call [403-210-9355](#).

c. **Sexual Violence:** The Sexual Violence Support Advocate, Carla Bertsch, can provide confidential support and information regarding sexual violence to all members of the university community. Carla can be reached by email (svsa@ucalgary.ca) or phone at [403-220-2208](#). The complete University of Calgary policy on sexual violence can be viewed [here](#).

d. **Student Ombuds Office:** A safe place for all students of the University of Calgary to discuss student related issues, interpersonal conflict, academic and non-academic concerns, and many other problems.

e. **Student Union Information:** [SU contact](#), Email your SU Science Reps: science1@su.ucalgary.ca, science2@su.ucalgary.ca, science3@su.ucalgary.ca,

f. **Academic Accommodation Policy:**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Accommodation-Policy.pdf>

Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf>.

Students needing an accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, by filling out the [Request for Academic Accommodation Form](#) and sending it to Lisa Gieg by email imgieg@ucalgary.ca preferably 10 business days before the due date of an assessment or scheduled absence.

- g. **Misconduct:** Academic integrity is the foundation of the development and acquisition of knowledge and is based on values of honesty, trust, responsibility, and respect. We expect members of our community to act with integrity. Research integrity, ethics, and principles of conduct are key to academic integrity. Members of our campus community are required to abide by our institutional [Code of Conduct](#) and promote academic integrity in upholding the University of Calgary's reputation of excellence. Some examples of academic misconduct include but are not limited to: posting course material to online platforms or file sharing without the course instructor's consent; submitting or presenting work as if it were the student's own work; submitting or presenting work in one course which has also been submitted in another course without the instructor's permission; borrowing experimental values from others without the instructor's approval; falsification/fabrication of experimental values in a report. Please read the following to inform yourself more on academic integrity:

[Student Handbook on Academic Integrity](#)
[Student Academic Misconduct Policy](#) and [Procedure](#)
[Faculty of Science Academic Misconduct Process](#)
[Research Integrity Policy](#)

Additional information is available on the [Student Success Centre Academic Integrity page](#)

- h. **Copyright of Course Materials:** All course materials (including those posted on the course D2L site, a course website, or used in any teaching activity such as (but not limited to) examinations, quizzes, assignments, laboratory manuals, lecture slides or lecture materials and other course notes) are protected by law. These materials are for the sole use of students registered in this course and must not be redistributed. Sharing these materials with anyone else would be a breach of the terms and conditions governing student access to D2L, as well as a violation of the copyright in these materials, and may be pursued as a case of student academic or [non-academic misconduct](#), in addition to any other remedies available at law.
- i. **Freedom of Information and Privacy:** This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP). Students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number on each subsequent page. For more information, see [Legal Services](#) website.
- j. **Surveys:** At the University of Calgary, feedback through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction ([USRI](#)) survey and the Faculty of Science Teaching Feedback form provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses. Your responses make a difference - please participate in these surveys.

Electronically Approved - Jan 08 2024 13:22

Department Approval