



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
COURSE OUTLINE

1. Course: CMMB 511, Molecular Biology & Genetics – Fall 2019

Lecture 01: TR 11:00-12:15 in BI 561

Instructor	Email	Phone	Office	Hours
Dr. Lashitew Gedamu	lgedamu@ucalgary.ca	220-5556	BI 350	TBA

Course Site: D2L: CMMB 511 L01-(Fall 2019)-Molecular Biology & Genetics

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

Department of Biological Sciences BI 186 220-3140 biosci@ucalgary.ca

2. Requisites:

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

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:

Component(s)	Weighting %	Date
Midterm Exam In-Class	40%	November 19- In Class
Assignment I	30%	October 22
Assignment II	30%	December 5

This course **does not** have a registrar scheduled final exam.

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.

Letter Grade	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D
Min. Percent Required	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%	45%

Department Approval: _____ ORIGINAL SIGNED _____

Date: _____

Department Approval
For No Final Exam: _____ ORIGINAL SIGNED _____
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Date: _____

4. **Missed Components Of Term Work:**

In the event that a student misses the midterm or any course work due to illness, supporting documentation, such as a medical note or a statutory declaration will be required (see [Section M.1](#); for more information regarding the use of statutory declaration/medical notes, see [FAQ](#)). Absences must be reported within 48 hours.

The regulations of the Faculty of Science pertaining to this matter are found in the Faculty of Science area of the Calendar in Section 3.6. It is the student's responsibility to familiarize themselves with these regulations. See also Section E.3 of the University Calendar.

5. **Scheduled Out-of-Class Activities:**

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

6. **Course Materials:**

There are no additional course materials required for this course.

7. **Examination Policy:**

No aids are allowed on tests or examinations.

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.

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 the 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 concerns 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.

1. **Term Work:** The student should present their rationale as effectively and as fully as possible to the Course coordinator/instructor within 15 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 immediately submit the Reappraisal of Graded Term work form to the department in which the course is offered. The department will arrange for a re-assessment of the work if, and only if, the student has sufficient academic grounds. See sections I.1 and I.2 of the University Calendar.
 2. **Final Exams:** 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 Center:** The Students Union Wellness Centre provides health and wellness support for students including information and counselling on physical health, mental health and nutrition. For more information, see www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre or call 403-210-9355.
 - c. **Sexual Violence:** The University of Calgary is committed to fostering a safe, productive learning environment. The Sexual Violence Policy (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf>) is a fundamental element in creating and sustaining a safer campus environment for all community members. We understand that sexual violence can undermine students' academic success and we encourage students who have experienced some form of sexual misconduct to talk to someone about their experience, so they can get the support they need. 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 .
 - d. **Misconduct:** Academic misconduct (cheating, plagiarism, or any other form) is a very serious offence that will be dealt with rigorously in all cases. A single offence may lead to disciplinary probation or suspension or expulsion. The Faculty of Science follows a zero tolerance policy regarding dishonesty. Please read the sections of the University Calendar under Section K. Student Misconduct to inform yourself of definitions, processes and penalties. Examples of academic misconduct may include: submitting or presenting work as if it were the student's own work when it is not; submitting or presenting work in one course which has also been submitted in another course without the instructor's permission; collaborating in whole or in part without prior agreement of the instructor; borrowing experimental values from others without the instructor's approval; falsification/ fabrication of experimental values in a report. These are only examples.
 - e. **Assembly Points:** In case of emergency during class time, be sure to FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF with the information on assembly points.
 - f. **Academic Accommodation Policy:** Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should contact Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the procedure for accommodations for students with disabilities available at [procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf](#).
Students needing an accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfill requirements for a graduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the Associate Head, Undergraduate of the Department of Biological Sciences, Heather Addy by email addy@ucalgary.ca or phone 403 220-6979. Religious accommodation requests relating to class, test or exam scheduling or absences must be submitted no later than 14 days prior to the date in question. See Section E.4 of the University Calendar.

- g. Safewalk: Campus Security will escort individuals day or night (See the Campus Safewalk website). Call 403-220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phones located at most parking lot pay booths.
- h. 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.
- i. **Student Union Information:** VP Academic, Phone: 403-220-3911 Email: suypaca@ucalgary.ca. SU Faculty Rep., Phone: 403-220-3913 Email: sciencerep@su.ucalgary.ca. Student Ombudsman, Email: ombuds@ucalgary.ca
- j. Internet and Electronic Device Information: Unless instructed otherwise, cell phones should be turned off during class. All communication with other individuals via laptop, tablet, smart phone or other device is prohibited during class unless specifically permitted by the instructor. Students that violate this policy may be asked to leave the classroom. Repeated violations may result in a charge of misconduct.
- k. 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.
- l. 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.

COURSE OUTLINE

I. INTRODUCTION

General principles of gene expression in eukaryotes.

- Eukaryotic gene transcription
- Transcriptional units
- RNA processing
- Levels of gene regulation
 - Transcriptional/Post-transcriptional event
 - mRNA stability/Post-translational signals

II. TOOLS OF MOLECULAR CELL BIOLOGY: MOLECULAR TECHNOLOGY

- Biological assay of mRNA
- Examining Nucleic Acid Sequences
 - i. Molecular hybridization and detection
 - ii. Rate of Nucleic Acid Hybridization as a measure of genomic complexity
 - iii. Southern and Northern Blot Analysis
 - iv. S1 Nuclease/RNase protection Analysis
 - v. Primer Extension
 - vi. Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Amplification
 - vii. Restriction endonucleases/Restriction Mapping
 - viii. DNA Sequencing
 - ix. Recombinant DNA: Selection and Production of Specific DNA
 - Cloning Vectors
 - cDNA (complementary DNA) Clones

- Genomic Clones
- Nucleic Acid: Protein Interaction Analysis and Protein Purification
 - i. Footprinting
 - ii. Bandshift
 - iii. U.V. Cross-linking
 - iv. Specific DNA-Affinity Chromatography
- Functional Analysis of Cloned Genes
 - i. Transgenics
 - ii. Transfection
 - iii. In vitro transcription

III. EUKARYOTIC CHROMOSOMES AND GENES: GENERAL STRUCTURE

- Morphology of Chromosomes
- Packaging of DNA/Nucleosomes and Chromatin Structure

IV. EUKARYOTIC CHROMOSOMES AND GENES: MOLECULAR ANATOMY

- Genomic Complexity/Classifying Eukaryotic DNA
- Organization of Structural Genes/External and Internal Relationships
 - i. Families of Protein-Coding Genes
 - ii. Tandemly Repeated Genes Encoding rRNA, tRNA and Histones
 - iii. Repetitious DNA
 - iv. Rearrangements in Chromosomal DNA

V. RNA SYNTHESIS AND PROCESSING IN EUKARYOTES

- The structure and biosynthesis of Eukaryotic mRNAs
- The Biochemical Signals in mRNA Biogenesis
- The Biochemistry of RNA Splicing
 - mRNA Turnover/Stability in the Cytoplasm

VI. EUKARYOTIC GENE CONTROL

- Signals for Gene Control in Eukaryotes
 - i. Hormones (Proteins, Steroids)
 - ii. Circulating or Secreted Protein Factors
(Growth Factors, Cytokines etc.)
 - iii. Environmental (Nutrition, Toxic Substances, Infection, Inflammation, Heat shock)
- Levels of Regulation
 - i. Transcriptional
- Tissue - or Cell-Specific Gene Control
- Differential and Developmental
 - ii. RNA Processing
- Differential Processing of Transcripts
(Poly A Choice, Splicing Variation)
 - iii. Cytoplasmic Control
- Changes in mRNA Stability
- Translation Efficiency of Specific mRNAs
- Overall Rate of Translation Under Various Conditions
- Mechanisms of Transcriptional Control
 - i. Cis-acting DNA Sequence Motifs
- Promoters/Enhancers/Silencers
- Response Elements
 - ii. Trans-acting Regulatory Protein Factors
(Positive- and Negative-Acting)
- Recognize Specific DNA Target Sequences
- Bind to Other Transcription Factor
 - iii. Changes in Chromatin Structure
 - iv. Changes in DNA Methylation Status

VII. GENE REGULATION AND FUNCTIONAL STUDIES IN TRYPANOSOMATIDS

VIII. RNA interference (RNAi), CRISPER Gene editing, Knock out and Functional analysis of genes.

COURSE OUTCOMES:

1. Understand the basic fundamental principles of eukaryotic gene organization, expression and regulation
2. Formulate concepts and relevant biological questions involving eukaryotic gene expression and regulation
3. Design molecular approaches to address biological questions using information provided
4. Interpret results of biological questions using data provided
5. Critically think in addressing relevant biological questions using molecular biology tools