

MICB 306 – Molecular Virology (2013W)

Calendar Description: Introduction to virus structure and replication. Detailed examination of selected viruses including polio, HIV and cancer-causing retroviruses. Development of vaccines and anti-viral drugs, the use of virus vectors to cure genetic diseases.

Lectures: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 12 noon - 1 PM in IRC 2 (WOOD 2).

Instructors:

Dr. Tracy Kion	Office: Wesbrook 125 E-mail: tkion@mail.ubc.ca Office hours - TBA
Dr. François Jean	Office: Room 3559 Life Sciences Centre; E-mail: fjean@mail.ubc.ca Office hours - TBA (you will need to check in at the LSC Administration Office first and exchange ID for a keycard that will let you upstairs)

Course objectives:

- To reinforce and build upon important concepts in virology that were developed in MICB 202 and BIOL 200.
- To gain an in-depth understanding of the processes of virus replication.
- Prerequisite for MICB 406, MICB 407.

Prerequisites and assumed background for this course:

- **MICB 202 (Intro to Virology)** We will assume that you are familiar with the major concepts in immunology that were discussed in MICB 202. We will go over some of the key points, but please review your notes from this course.
- **BIOL 200 or equivalent (Cell Biology)** We will assume that you are familiar with cellular organization and the functions of various organelles, the basic structures of DNA, proteins and membranes, and important cellular functions including transcription, mRNA splicing, translation, and protein secretion. Please look at relevant sections in the “Essential Cell Biology” or “Molecular Biology of the Cell” textbooks to refresh your memory.

Required textbook: Virology: Principles and Applications (J. Carter and V. Saunders), 2nd edition

MICB 306 Connect site: Login at <http://www.connect.ubc.ca>

The purposes of the web site are:

- To post figure sets, review questions, and other study aids.
- To provide a forum for students to exchange views about the course and the course material (bulletin board).
- To post news items and research items relating to current developments in virology research.

The purposes of the lecture period are:

- To convey the important concepts that you will need to know for the exams using figures from the textbook as well as other figures to enhance your understanding of the material.
- To point out areas of active research in virology.

Learning objectives:

The learning objectives will be posted in the slides for each lecture.

Tutorials: There are two tutorial sections. Please attend the session that you are registered for.

Tutorial sections:

Section T01	Tuesday 11 AM - 12 noon	WESB 100
Section T02	Thursday 12:30 - 1:30 pm	WESB 100

Note: Tutorials will start week 2 (Sept. 9 - 13)

Teaching assistants:

Emma-Kate Loveday
Anastasia Hyrina

The objectives for the tutorial sessions are:

- To practice answering midterm-like questions that review the content discussed in lecture.
- To discuss how to construct a good answer to an exam question.

Grade Distribution:

Midterm exam #1 – 30%
Midterm exam #2 – 30%
Final exam – 30%
Project - 10%.

Exams:

Note: The Department of Microbiology and Immunology now has a policy of scheduling exams for large courses in the evening. This is to ensure that you can get the full time allotted for writing the exam.

1. There will be two midterms, each worth 30% of the final grade. The first midterm is scheduled for the evening of Oct. 8th, 2013. The second midterm is scheduled for the evening of Nov. 6th, 2013.

If you miss the 1st midterm due to illness, the weight of this exam will be transferred to the 2nd midterm and the final exam (15% each).

If you miss the 2nd midterm due to illness, you will be required to write a makeup exam about one week later.

If both midterm exams are missed, the student will be required to withdraw from the course.

Students must report any absences from the exam within 48 hours. Students can then provide documentation of their illness at a later time. For exams missed due to illness, a doctor's note must explain why you were unable to write the exam – a note that reads "was seen in my office" is not sufficient. If students don't report their absence within 48 hours, a grade of "0" will be entered into the course records.

If you have an evening course or university function (i.e., varsity team) that conflicts with the time of the exam, this must be reported one week prior to the exam. You would need to provide documentation to support your request for writing the midterm at an alternate time (i.e., copy of your time-table, letter from the UBC sports team). You will be required to write the exam at the earliest possible time (maybe before the rest of the class, or first thing the following morning).

Details about the midterm exam will be released a week before the exam (i.e., the content that would be eligible for examination). The information will be sent by email using the University's registration system and will be posted on Connect. Therefore, it is important that your email address is recorded with the University.

For the midterm exams only, any student that feels that they should have been awarded additional marks can appeal this in writing. The student must discuss (in writing, on a separate paper) why their answer should be awarded additional marks – the question will be re-evaluated by the instructors. The request for re-evaluation must be received within one week of the midterm exams being returned to the students.

Exams (continued):

Students are reminded that the exams are photocopied prior to their return to students and that students **MUST NOT** edit their copy of the exam prior to resubmitting their exam. Students that alter their midterm exams and request the exam be re-evaluated will be subject to academic discipline.

2. The final exam is worth 30% of the final grade and will be held during the final exam period. The final exam will cover the content taught by Dr. Jean. However, since the material in the second half of the course builds on earlier material, you will need to be familiar with the major concepts from the first half of the course.

The exam period is set for Dec. 4th – Dec. 18th. This means that you should **not** make airline reservations until you know your exam schedule. The Dean's Office **will not** permit students to write final examinations at alternate times because of travel conflicts.

3. The midterm and final exams will consist of a combination of short answer questions, short essay questions and multiple-choice questions. Most questions can be answered with several sentences, or at maximum with 1 – 2 paragraphs. It is okay to present your answer in point form and diagrams often help.

Clear and concise writing is better than a large volume. Responses that have the right answer, but with lots of incorrect or irrelevant information may receive lower scores than responses that are correct and concise.

Tip: Outline your response first as opposed to writing a “stream of consciousness” answer.

Missed Final Exams: Students that are absent during the final exam must report to the Dean's Office as soon as possible and request a form for a Deferred Exams. The Dean's office will require valid documentation to explain your absence from an exam. Deferred Exams are scheduled by the Registrar's Office and are usually held in late July.

Note that instructors are not permitted to rearrange the times of final exams for students other than in a case of exam hardship. An exam hardship is defined as 3 exams within a 24-hour period. For example, Student “A” has an exam at 8:30 am, 12:00 noon and 7 pm; this is an exam hardship and the 2nd exam would be rescheduled (probably to the following day). An example of what is **NOT** an exam hardship: Student “B” has exams scheduled at 8 am, 12:00 noon, then 8 am the following day. The third exam is in the next 24-hour period.

Project:

The Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) was first described in September 2012. Since then, over 90 cases have been reported with at least 70 cases being in Saudi Arabia. Even with medical care, the mortality rate of this infection is extremely high, about 65%. While there have been a few cases of human-human transmission, the source of human infection in the majority of cases is unknown.

Not much is known about the virus responsible for MERS other than it is a coronavirus.

Project (continued):

Your project will have to propose the complete replication cycle of this virus. Your write-up should describe how the virus binds to the host cell, how the genome enters the cell, how the genome is replicated and expressed, how the virus is assembled and released from the host cell. There are good resources for you to use to assist you in this project (CDC, <http://www.cdc.gov>, Viral Zone, <http://viralzone.expasy.org/>, All the Virology on the WWW, <http://www.virology.net/>, NIH <http://www.nih.gov/>, WHO, <http://www.who.int/en>).

The project will be due on Monday, November 25, 2013. Late submissions will lose 20% of the grade per day that it is late.

Important Course Dates:

- Tuesday Sept. 3, 2013 – First day of term, classes cancelled so student can attend Imagine and the Microbiology and Immunology Department's Orientation Meeting.
- Wednesday Sept. 4, 2013 – First meeting of MICB 306.
- Tuesday Sept. 17, 2013 – Last day for change in registration and for withdrawal from most Term 1 courses without withdrawal standing of "W" recorded on a student's academic record. Last day for change between credit and audit for Term 1 courses.
- Wednesday Sept. 18, 2013 – Classes are suspended at UBC so that students, faculty and staff can direct their attention to the **Observance of Opening of West Coast National Event of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission**.
- Tuesday Oct. 8, 2013 – Midterm #1, evening exam.
- Friday Oct. 11, 2013 – Last day for withdrawal from most Winter Session Term 1 courses with withdrawal standing of "W" recorded on a student's academic record. Course cannot be dropped after this date.
- Wednesday Nov. 6, 2013 – Midterm #2, evening exam.
- Friday Nov. 29, 2013 – Last meeting of MICB 306.
- Wednesday Dec. 4 – Wednesday Dec. 18, 2013 – Winter exam session. The final is scheduled by the Registrar's office. See the following section.

Teaching approach, how to study, what you need to know:

1. In the lecture periods, we will discuss the major concepts using figures from the textbook, as well as other figures, to enhance your understanding of the material. In many cases, we will draw diagrams that explain the concepts. The figures and diagrams will illustrate the most important concepts. When you study for the exams, make sure that you can explain the figures and diagrams to yourself.

Teaching approach, how to study, what you need to know (continued):

2. A set of **Powerpoint figures** will be posted on the web site the day before each class. If you print these out and bring them to class, you will then need to write your own notes that accompany these slides. However, you should copy any hand drawn diagrams, as these will not be posted on the web site.

For the exams, you will be responsible for all of the material covered during the lectures (including the concepts/information contained in all figures and diagrams shown or drawn during the lecture) and the listed readings from Parham. You would also be responsible for reading any journal articles posted on Connect by the instructors and identified as eligible for examination.

3. Use the **textbook** to gain a better understanding of the material. During the lectures, we will indicate for each chapter which sections and figures are the most relevant. Focus on the text that relates to the concepts and figures we have covered in the lecture notes. The textbook is excellent and we encourage you to use it.
4. Try to answer the **review questions** found in the textbook on your own or discuss them with classmates.
 - Ask questions in the tutorials.
 - Ask questions in class. Note that the instructor may ask you to see them after class or at office hours if a long answer is necessary.
 - E-mail your TA or the instructor – keep your questions brief and to the point.
 - See the instructor during their office hours. Have your questions prepared.
6. Keep up with the material; don't leave everything for the week before the exam. There is a great deal of material and the later material builds on earlier material. It will be hard to understand subsequent chapters if you are not familiar with the concepts from the earlier chapters.

Course topics:

- Virus structure
- Virus attachment and entry
- Genome replication
- Gene expression
- Assembly and exit of virions from cells
- Outcomes of infection
- Methods used in virology
- Viruses and Cancer
- Virus vaccines and anti-viral drugs

The replication of selected viruses will also be covered.

Tutoring:

Many private companies will offer tutoring services to students enrolled in courses at UBC, often for an hourly fee. The instructors of MICB 306 do not support or endorse any of these services. The employees of these companies have had no contact or discussions with the instructors and **are not** provided with any of the course materials. Students are directed to use caution if hiring any of these companies. Appeals that the course grade was lower than expected because of incorrect information provided by these companies will not be accepted.

Classroom Civility:

To create and preserve a classroom atmosphere that optimizes teaching and learning, all participants share a responsibility in creating a civil and non-disruptive forum. **Students are expected to conduct themselves at all times in this classroom in a manner that does not disrupt teaching or learning.**

- You are expected to be on time. Class starts promptly at 12 noon. You should be in your seat and ready to begin class at this time. Class ends at 1:50 pm. Packing up your things early is disruptive to others around you and to myself.
- Classroom discussion should be civilized and respectful to everyone and relevant to the topic we are discussing. Any discussion from class that continues on Connect should adhere to these same rules and expectations.
- Electronic devices such as computers, cell phones and pagers must be turned off during class, unless you have informed the instructor ahead of time that you are expecting an emergency message.

Academic Misconduct:

From the UBC Academic Calendar: Academic honesty is essential to the continued functioning of the University of British Columbia as an institution of higher learning and research. All UBC students are expected to behave as honest and responsible members of an academic community. Breach of those expectations or failure to follow the appropriate policies, principles, rules, and guidelines of the University with respect to academic honesty may result in disciplinary action.

<http://www.students.ubc.ca/calendar/index.cfm?tree=3,54,0,0>

What is academic misconduct?

Academic misconduct is behaviour that erodes the basis of mutual trust on which scholarly exchanges commonly rest, undermines the University's exercise of its responsibility to evaluate students' academic achievements, or restricts the University's ability to accomplish its learning objectives. See the following URL below for specific examples of academic misconduct.

<http://www.students.ubc.ca/calendar/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,959>

Academic Misconduct (continued):

What happens if a student commits academic misconduct?

Academic misconduct often results in a one-year suspension from the University and a notation of academic discipline on the student's record. Other disciplinary measures include a letter of reprimand, a grade of zero for the assignment and/or for the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

<http://www.students.ubc.ca/calendar/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,960>

Examples of academic misconduct that would apply to MICB 306 (this list is not comprehensive):

- Writing an exam for another student, or hiring someone to write your exam.
- Copying answers from another student during an examination.
- Bringing materials such as review sheets into the exam.
- Showing your answers to another student during an examination.
- Copying and pasting any type of content from Wikipedia or any other print source and submitting it as your own work.
- Having someone write your project on your behalf.

Laptops in class:

Over the past few years we have monitored students in MICB 306 (and in other classes) as part of studies to develop more effective methods for teaching. There is no doubt that having your laptop on will decrease your attention in class. In some cases, your laptop will be a detriment to people sitting near you. There will be no cases where you need to access your laptop during MICB 306 classes (but you will need it outside of class!). We strongly urge you to leave it off. You will need to 'take notes' for the class primarily to record topics that were emphasized and to record questions you have.

If you intend to use a laptop, you will be asked to sit at the back of the room so that the screen of your laptop does not distract your neighbours.