

Topics in Cancer Biology Course

Course 6260/8260 /Section 001

Thursday 4 to 7 PM, Room WO3246

Instructors:

Fan Dong

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Course Format:

The course will meet once a week for 3 hours. Each week an instructor will introduce the topic that will be discussed (30 – 60 minutes). This will be followed by discussion of one or two manuscripts pertaining to the topic for that week. The discussions will focus on the background, experimental design, methods, quality of data, conclusions reached, and the significance of the manuscript to the field.

Student Evaluation:

Students will receive a letter grade for this course. Grades will be based on at least three oral presentations of manuscripts and participation in the subsequent discussions. The manuscripts to be presented and discussed have been chosen by the instructors. Ph.D. and M.S. students will be evaluated in the same way.

Class attendance is mandatory.

A more detailed description of how student presentations will be evaluated follows.

Office Hours:

Both instructors are available by appointment or can answer questions submitted by Email.

Schedule for Topics in Cancer Biology Course

Class:

- Aug. 27 Introduction to the course (Deborah Vestal)/ Intro to Cancer Biology (Fan Dong)
- Sept. 3 Cell Cycle Regulation lecture (FD)/ 2 manuscripts
- Sept. 10 Telomerase lecture (FD)/2 manuscripts
- Sept. 17 Programmed Cell Death lecture (DV)/ 2 manuscripts
- Sept. 24 Oncogenes lecture (DV)/ 2 manuscripts
- Oct. 1 Tumor Suppressors lecture (FD)/ 2 manuscripts
- Oct. 8 Growth Factor Signaling in Cancer lecture (FD)/ 2 manuscripts
- Oct. 15 Viral Carcinogenesis (DV)/ 2 manuscripts
- Oct. 22 Cancer Stem Cells (FD)/ 2 manuscripts
- Oct. 29 Angiogenesis and Metastasis lecture (DV)/ 2 manuscripts
- Nov. 5 miRNA in Cancer (DV)/2 manuscripts
- Nov. 12 Breast Cancer lecture (DV)/ 2 manuscripts
- Nov. 19 Cancer Epigenetics (FD)/ 2 manuscripts
- Nov. 26 Thanksgiving
- Dec. 3 Cancer Therapy (FD)/ 2 manuscripts

What we are looking for as part of the evaluation of student presentations

A number of things that should be included in your presentation will be addressed below. It is possible that not all of these will apply to the particular manuscript that you are presenting but they are worth paying attention to. Students will be evaluated on their ability to clearly articulate the biological question/hypothesis being addressed by the manuscript they are presenting. This will include the presentation of background information about the subject covered in the manuscript. A solid understanding of the biological system, signal transduction pathways, and/or model organism involved should help the student identify the hypothesis behind the paper. It should also help the student describe the methodologies used by the investigators. Once you have introduced the subject, as you approach each figure you want to first describe the question that the figure addresses. Then describe the methods used to obtain the data in the figure. After that, carefully lead us through the figure in detail. What can be concluded from the data presented and do your conclusions agree with those of the investigators? This approach should get you through the results section. Finally, address the conclusions of the paper and how they contribute to our understanding of the field in question. Did the authors really demonstrate what they claim to have?

Evaluation form for student presentations

Name _____

Presentation date _____

1. Introduction
2. Identification of the primary question asked or hypothesis tested in the manuscript
3. Understanding and communication of the methods used
4. Description and interpretation of the figures
5. Discussion
6. Conclusions
7. Grade

STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Department of Biological Sciences

Academic dishonesty by students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate courses and programs offered by the Department of Biological Sciences will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to:

1. Obtaining assistance from another individual during an examination.
2. Giving assistance to another individual during an examination.
3. The unauthorized use of study material or textbooks during an examination.
4. Changing answers on an examination after it has been returned and then submitting it for regrading.
5. Plagiarizing written assignments. Plagiarizing includes but is not limited to : a) Copying laboratory reports from previous years, b) copying or paraphrasing reports, term papers, or these prepared by other students, c) unauthorized collaboration in the preparation of reports, term papers, or theses, and d) use of another author's materials without appropriate acknowledgement through quotation and citation.
6. Attempting to bribe or otherwise induce an instructor to alter either a grade or examination score.
7. Obtaining or attempting to obtain a copy of an examination prior to its administration.

In accordance with policies presented in The Student Handbook and The University Catalog, Instructors have the responsibility and right to report cases of alleged dishonesty to departmental, college, and university administrative units. Students involved in academic dishonesty may expect to receive a grade of F on specific assignments as well as in the course where the assignment was made. In addition, disciplinary action may be recommended through appropriate college and university disciplinary committees. Please consult your instructor for instructions on the implementation of this policy.