



Biological Literature and Communication - BIOL 4700 002 (CRN: 24743)

**The University of Toledo
College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics**

Instructor:	Dr. Maria Diakonova	Class Location:	WO 1240
Email:	mdiakon@utnet.utoledo.edu	Class Day/Time:	Tuesday, Thursday 2:00 -3:15 PM
Office Hours:	by appointment	Lab Location:	N/A
Office Location:	BO 3096B	Lab Day/Time:	N/A
Office Phone:	530-7876	Credit Hours:	3
Term:	Spring 2015		

COURSE/CATALOG DESCRIPTION

A writing intensive course that focuses on reading original literature in biology in a variety of formats. Required of all biology majors.

COURSE OVERVIEW

One of the objectives of this course entitled “Cancer and Infection” is to acquaint students with the methods and processes used by the scientific community to communicate, evaluate findings, and develop a consensus on basic concepts. Our discussions will focus on the link between infective agents and the most common cancers. Ethics in scientific research and writing will also be addressed.

This is a writing/discussion-based class that requires class attendance and class participation. Selected papers from the scientific literature will be assigned and covered in-depth during class - students are expected to be prepared and have completed reading assignments prior to each class. In addition, each student will write an 8-10 page term paper and prepare a 15-minute oral presentation on an approved topic.

Detailed instructions for the preparation of the Term paper and Oral presentation will be provided in class.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

- 1) Become familiar with the fundamental concepts of cancer biology.
- 2) Become acquainted with basic molecular biology techniques and how they have provided us with important information in our understanding of molecular cancer biology.
- 3) Develop a deeper understanding of cell structure and how it relates to cancer biology.



- 4) Understand cell signaling and how it regulates cellular functions. Also how its dis-regulation leads to cancer.
- 5) Evaluate selected literature for relevance to an approved topic.

TEACHING STRATEGIES

This course is designed to stimulate student learning through engagement and participation. A variety of learning strategies will be used including in class discussions, group activities and presentations. Please be prepared when you come to class by completing any and all assigned readings. Coming to class prepared to participate will be critical to your success in the course since the class activities are a significant part of your grade in the course.

PREREQUISITES AND COREQUISITES

Undergraduate level BIOL 3030 Minimum Grade of C

REQUIRED TEXTS AND ANCILLARY MATERIALS

This course will be seminar-based. There is no required textbook. Required papers can be downloaded from the Blackboard website. Click the 'Distance and eLearning' link on the University of Toledo main web site, or go to <http://www.utoledo.edu/dl/>. These papers will be updated regularly, **but cannot substitute for class attendance**. Some handouts will also be provided throughout the semester to students enrolled in the course. **The students will be expected to have read all papers and prepared themselves for discussion during the class period.**

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Computer with Adobe Reader and Microsoft Power Point as well as access to Blackboard will be required in order to complete the course.



UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Policy Statement on Non--Discrimination on the basis of Disability (ADA) The University is an equal opportunity educational institution. Please read [The University's Policy Statement on Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability Americans with Disability Act Compliance.](#))

Academic Accommodations

The University of Toledo is committed to providing equal access to education for all students. If you have a documented disability or you believe you have a disability and would like information regarding academic accommodations/adjustments in this course please contact the [Student Disability Services Office.](#)

ACADEMIC POLICIES

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Department of Biological Sciences

Academic dishonesty by students enrolled in undergraduate or graduate courses and programs offered by the Department of Biological Science 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 re-grading.
5. Plagiarizing written assignments. Plagiarizing includes: (a) copying laboratory reports from previous years, (b) copying or paraphrasing reports, term papers, or theses 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 acknowledgment 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 policy outlined in the Student Handbook and the University Catalog, instructors have the responsibility and right to bring 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.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

The students will be expected to have read all papers and prepared themselves for discussion during the class period.

GRADING

	<u>% of grade</u>
Class Participation	20
Attendance (days present/class period)	20
Term Paper (<u>Due April 14</u>)	20
Oral Presentation (<u>April 21- April 30</u>)	20
Class Assignments	20

Grades will be determined based upon student class performance and class tests. Grades will be letter-based and will utilize a straight scale (see below) unless overall class performance dictates use of a curve.

A = 93-100%	B- = 80-82%
A- = 90-92%	C+ = 77-79%
B+ = 87-89%	C = 73-76%
B = 83-86%	C- = 70-72%
	D+ = 67-69%
	D = 63-66%
	D- = 60-62%

COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES

Instructor is available by appointment, or can answer Email questions.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES



The University of Toledo offers a wide range of academic and student support services that can help you succeed:

University Libraries

University Libraries are your gateway to information at the University of Toledo connecting you with the resources you need for education, and research.

Tutoring Services

Tutoring support for all UT students is available through the Learning Enhancement Center located in the Carlson Library. Tutoring Services are offered in an array of subjects, including Writing, Math (Calculus), Statistics, Accounting), Biology, Chemistry and Anatomy and Physiology

The Writing Center

The Writing Center provides free, face-to-face and online tutoring for writers in all disciplines. The staff there can assist you with a variety of writing assignments.

The Counseling Center

Transitioning to college and/or maintaining a healthy well being while attending college can be difficult, if you or a friend ever feel overwhelmed adjusting to college or in need of crisis intervention or mental health services please contact the Counseling Center.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Important Dates:

Jan 27	Must have an approved topic by this date
Feb 24	Outline for Term paper due (1 page <u>with references</u>)
March 17	Rough draft of Term paper due (4-5 pages)
April 14	Term paper due (8-10 pages)
April 21	Oral presentations begin