

BIOL 309 – Developmental Biology

Lectures: Mondays and Thursdays, 1:00-2:30

Labs: Wednesdays, 2:30-5:30

A single Zoom link to lectures and labs is accessed directly through Brightspace (you must have previously activated your UVic Zoom license at uvic.zoom.us).

Course coordinator: Bob Chow bobchow@uvic.ca

Office hours: please send me email any time with questions

Lab instructors: Bridget Ryan, ryanb2@uvic.ca, Madison Wiebe madisonwiebe@uvic.ca

Course description

This course examines animal development and will focus on cellular and molecular mechanisms that underlie developmental processes. A solid understanding of basic principles in molecular and cellular biology is required. Effort will be made to highlight relevance of developmental biology to our understanding of disease and lectures will incorporate recent discoveries from the primary literature. A major goal of this course is to help develop skills to: (i) evaluate the primary scientific literature, (ii) develop hypotheses based on pre-existing knowledge and (iii) design experiments to test hypotheses.

Reading material

(i) Textbook: Gilbert Developmental Biology, 12th edition (lectures draw from, but do not strictly follow text)

(ii) reading material will also be drawn from the primary literature, review articles and other sources, which will be posted on Brightspace.

Evaluation

(1) Lab	40%
(2) Midterm exam	30%
(3) Final exam	30%

Lab

The lab component will be conducted via Zoom and is split into 2 sections: (i) a wet lab and (ii) a journal article review/“dry” lab (each worth 17% of final grade). There will be 5 wet labs and 5 journal article review/dry labs. Detailed information (including lab schedule) will be posted on Brightspace on a weekly basis.

Breakdown of the lab grade:

<u>Wet lab</u>	<u>17%</u>	<u>Dry lab (journal article review)</u>	<u>18%</u>
In class assignments	5%	Pre-lab quizzes	4%
Lab report	12%	Oral presentation	5%
		Paper/mini-proposal	9%

Wet and dry lab participation grade (5 %) - this grade will cover participation in dry lab (brainstorming questions, involvement in class discussion) and wet labs (i.e. make an effort to contribute to laboratory discussion).

Midterm and final exam

The midterm is compulsory and will be held on Thursday Feb 25. It will cover material up to Feb 22. The final exam will be similar in format and length to the midterm exam, and will be held during the exam period. The final exam is NOT cumulative and will cover material starting from Fly development (March 1) through to the end of the course.

Exams will test understanding of fundamentals, concepts and mechanisms underlying developmental systems as well as ability to develop hypotheses and to design experiments to test them. Format for both exams: mostly short answer. The exams will cover anything presented in the lectures.

Important background reading from the textbook

Brightspace: see Tools and Techniques module at bottom of page

Basic molecular biology:

pp 56-88 of the textbook (Developmental Biology, 12th edition) covers important basic molecular biology background material that will be referred to through the course. This includes a review of the “central dogma” of gene expression, i.e. gene >> transcription [mRNA] >> translation [protein]

Signal transduction pathways:

pp 115-128 describes the major cell-cell signaling pathways that are discussed in the class (e.g. Hedgehog, Wnt, Notch, TGF-beta, FGF, tyrosine receptor kinase, etc...)

Experimental techniques discussed in the course:

- a good description of some of the techniques that will be referred to in the course can be found on pages 20-25, 50-52, 89-95 in the 12th Edition (85-91 in the 11th Edition)

- in situ hybridization
- chromatin immunoprecipitation/sequencing
- deep sequencing, RNA seq
- forward/reverse genetics
- Crispr/Cas9 gene editing
- Gal4/UAS system
- cre-lox system
- single cell RNA sequencing

(Lecture schedule and text reading on next page)

