

## MCB 231 Spring 2007

Lectures	Tuesdays and Thursdays	1100-1230	103 GPB
Discussions	Fridays	1000-1200	107 GPB

### **INSTRUCTORS** (See *Sharon* for administrative matters related to this course):

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### **There is no required text. For review or background:**

Slack "Essential Developmental Biology", 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Blackwell

Gilbert "Developmental Biology" 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, or 8<sup>th</sup> edition, Sinauer (the 6<sup>th</sup> edition is available online at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/bv.fcgi?call=bv.View..ShowTOC&rid=dbio.TOC&depth=2>)

Gilbert & Raunio "Embryology: Constructing the Organism" Sinauer

Moody "Cell Lineage and Fate Determination" Academic Press

Wolpert "Principles of Development" Current Biology/Oxford

### **Discussions**

Each discussion section will consist of student presentations of 1-2 assigned research articles relevant to the concurrent lectures. Presentations will be scheduled on January 19, but the actual papers to be discussed will be determined as the course progresses. Papers will typically be assigned at least one week prior to the discussion.

### **Discussion Guidelines**

You should present a critical evaluation of the paper, as in a 290 seminar (which most of you haven't taken yet!). Although, the entire class must read the paper prior to discussion, you should treat your presentation as though we have not.

Your presentation should be organized as follows:

1. Background: put the paper in context.
2. Statement of the main points and claims of the paper.
3. Detailed consideration of the methods and data: usually this takes the form of going through the figures, discussing each not in general terms but pointing out salient features ("if you compare lane A and G of the figure you see that...")
4. Discussion of whether the work is convincing, how well presented it was, how clear, whether the conclusions are justified, what more you would have liked to see, how this fits with present day notions. Was the work important or overblown?

The whole presentation, including discussion, should take about 30-45 minutes so that the whole section should take less than 90 minutes, depending upon the number of papers presented. Members of the class are expected to participate in a **\*\*lively\*\*** discussion.

Powerpoint presentations are standard to present the data, but you are strongly encouraged to make use of the blackboard during the discussion.

### **Grading**

Grades will be assigned on the basis of your presentation(s) AND **PARTICIPATION** in Discussion and on your written responses (2-4 pages each) to 3 assignments.