

SYLLABUS: MCB150 "MOLECULAR IMMUNOLOGY"

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LECTURES: Tuesday/Thursday: 9:30 - 11:00 AM, 2060 VLSB

MCB150 is an introductory course in modern molecular immunology. It is geared towards students with strong backgrounds in basic biology, biochemistry, molecular biology and cell biology. We will focus on basic concepts in immunology with emphasis on the experimental approaches that have led to our current understanding of the development and function of the immune system. In addition, we will consider controversial topics and areas of current investigation. We expect students to become familiar with immunologic techniques that are used in many scientific disciplines as well as clinical medicine.

DISCUSSION SECTIONS

There are 6 discussion sections for this course:

Day	Time	Location	GSI
Mon	10 – 11	229 Dwinelle	Karl Banta
Tue	2-3	283 Dwinelle	Jeannette Tenthorey
Tue	8-9	187 Dwinelle	Randilea Nichols
Wed	12-1	54 Barrows	Jeannette Tenthorey
Wed	1-2	2062 VLSB	Randilea Nichols
Wed	3-4	2032 VLSB	Karl Banta

Please attend the Discussion Section for which you registered. Attendance at a discussion section is required and credited. The purpose of these sections is to allow you to ask questions and to clarify the material from lectures and the text. When appropriate, the discussion leader may present short reviews of difficult material as well as material not covered in lecture. Problem sets (see below) will be due in class. Discussion sections will begin in the second week of class.

PROBLEM SETS

Problem sets will be assigned as indicated in the lecture schedule and will be due in class one week later. The purpose of these problems sets is to help you evaluate your understanding of the material covered in class and discussions. Problem sets will not be graded, but they must be completed and handed in for credit.

READING

The optional textbook for this course is *Janeway's Immunobiology*, by Murphy et al, 8th Edition. The textbook is available in the library as well as an e-book, which can be purchased (or rented) from the VitalSource online store (<http://store.vitalsource.com/show/9781136977176>).

One of the challenges in studying immunology is that the immune system is a complex network, and it is difficult for the beginner to read about any part of it without encountering reference to other totally unfamiliar parts. There is no alternative but to plunge in and to work through perhaps some initial confusion until the parts begin to fall into place. Frequent references to the overview (Chapter 1), and appropriate questions to your instructors and discussion leaders will help minimize the confusion. Do not hesitate to ask questions - all too often a particular term may mean one thing to the layperson, and quite another to the professional immunologist. The only way to clear up the problem is to ask, **promptly**, when something doesn't seem to make sense!

GETTING HELP

If you have questions at any time during the course, promptly ask one of the instructors or your discussion leader. Office hours are a great place to ask questions. Historically, students who attend office hours do better in this course. Immunology is a cumulative subject, and a few minutes spent clarifying points of confusion early in the course can save you much time and trouble later. To understand the medically related material discussed in the last part of the course, you need to be thoroughly familiar with the basic material on the function of the immune system presented in the first part of the course.

EXAMINATIONS AND GRADING:

There will be two midterms and one final examination. The examinations will be primarily of short-answer type and will cover concepts and material presented in the lectures and problem sets. The examinations are cumulative, but place a greater emphasis on the more recently taught material.

Your grade for the course will be based upon the following factors: Midterm I: 150 points

Midterm II: 150 points, Final Exam: 150 points, Discussion section: 50 points*

*Discussion section points are based on attendance, completion of Problem Sets and participation.

SCHEDULE OF EXAMS:

Midterm I: February 20 7:00 – 9:00PM, 155 Dwinelle Midterm II: April 3, 7:00 – 9:00PM, 2050 VLSB Final Exam: Wed, May 14, 1130-230 PM, location TBA

THERE ARE NO MAKE-UP MIDTERM EXAMS.