ONCOLOGY 660/661: CURRENT TOPICS IN CANCER RESEARCH

Course Coordinators

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Course Description

Oncology 660/661 is a general seminar course on recent advances in a wide range of topics related to cancer development and management. Selected topics include: experimental therapeutics, molecular oncogenesis, tumour immunobiology, DNA repair and cell cycle regulation.

Oncology 661 is given in the Fall term and is worth 1 credit. Students are given a grade of Pass or Fail based on attendance.

Oncology 660 is given in the Winter term and is worth 2 credits. Students are graded according to the University of Alberta letter grade system. Marks will be based on: (i) seminar, (ii) short essay, (iii) abstract and (iv) attendance, as detailed in the grading section of the document.

Registration

Graduate students will normally register for credit in Oncology 660/661 during the second (M.Sc./Ph.D.) year of their program. However, all Oncology graduate students are required to attend all Oncology 660/661 seminars whether or not they are registered for credit during that particular year of study. In addition, PhD students are required to give Oncology 660 seminars in the 3rd and 4th years of their program, for a total of 3 seminars.
Course Requirements for those Registered for Credit

1. Students registered in Oncology 660/661 will present one seminar either on results of their own research or on a related topic approved by their research supervisor. The seminar will be presented during the second term of the course.

2. Students will submit an abstract describing the content of their seminar presentation as well as a Supervisory Committee List no later than one week before the scheduled seminar to the Student Program Assistant.

3. Members of the Supervisory Committee will be invited by the Student Program Assistant to attend the seminar.

4. Immediately following each student presentation, the student, together with the course coordinators and any members of the students’ supervisory committee present, will participate in the evaluation of the seminar. Feedback will be provided to each student immediately after the seminar.

Course Material

The following articles will aid the student in the preparation of their seminar.

Schoeberl, M. and Toon, B., Ten Secrets to Giving a Good Scientific Talk

Freeman, R., How to Give an Effective Scientific Presentation

Graduate Student Organization Site, Michigan State University, Tips for Giving a Scientific Presentation

UCD – Condensed Matter Journal Club, How to Give a Scientific Presentation


Grading

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short Essay</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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Seminar (60%): Evaluated on the basis of overall clarity of presentation, quality of slides/overheads, presentation and ability to answer questions.
Abstract (5%): An abstract must be provided no later than one week before the scheduled seminar. Margins for the abstract should be: Top 9 cm; Bottom 2.5 cm; Left 3 cm and Right 3 cm. Students will be penalized for not following the formatting instructions and 2% will be deducted for each day late. This abstract should be emailed to the Student Program Assistant. The abstract will be evaluated for conciseness, grammar, and clarity of presentation.

Short Essay (25%): The due date for the essay is 4:00 p.m. the last day of classes. Three copies of your essay should be handed in to the Graduate Student Assistant, Room 2237 Department of Oncology office by 4:00 p.m. April 8, 2016. The Student Program Assistant will "blind" the essays and distribute them to three professors for marking. An electronic copy should also be emailed to the instructors.

The essay should be no longer than 5 double-spaced pages with one inch margins and with a font size of 12 pts. Figures and references are not included in the five page limit. The essay will be on a topic selected by the course coordinators. Note that although the essay is only worth 25%, it can have a significant impact on your final mark. For example, if you did a superb job with your presentation (worthy of an A+) but your essay was average (e.g. A-) you will likely get an overall A in the course.

There will be a penalty for handing in the Abstract or Essay late, calculated at 5% for each day late. For example, an abstract handed in 5 days late will result in an overall mark reduction of 25%.

Participation (10%): An attendance sheet will be circulated each week – it is the student’s responsibility to sign it before they leave the seminar. Anyone with a valid excuse for not attending a seminar (e.g. going to a conference) should inform Roseline or Michael and he/she will not be penalized for their absence. Should a student miss a seminar without a valid excuse, we will deduct 5% from their overall mark.

Cell Phones: Using a cell phone in class for ANY PURPOSE will be considered disruptive (it is rude to both the instructor and fellow students). Students doing so will be asked to leave.
Cell phone ringers are to be turned off during seminars.

Students with Disabilities
Students who require accommodation in this course because of a disability are advised to discuss their needs with Specialized Support & Disability Services (2-800 Students’ Union Building).

Academic Support Centre
Students who require additional help in developing strategies for better time management, study skills or examination skills should contact the Academic Support Centre (2-703 Students’ Union Building).

Other Student Support
Students who wish to seek support for anxiety, depression or other issues related to mental health can contact the peer support centre (2-707 SUB; 780-492-4357 (help line); 780-492-4268 (info and appointments); http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/psc), or U of A Counselling and Clinical Services (2-600 SUB; 780-492-5205; https://uofa.ualberta.ca/current-students/counselling).

Student Responsibilities
The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (available online: www.ualberta.ca/secretariat/appeals.htm) and to avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Cheating, plagiarism and misrepresentation of facts are serious offenses. Anyone who engages in these practices will receive at minimum a grade of zero for the exam or paper in question and no opportunity will be given to replace the grade or redistribute the weights. Any offense will be reported to the Senior Associate Dean who will determine the disciplinary action to be taken. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

Missed Examinations
There are no exams. Missed deadlines for written assignments may be extended at the discretion of the instructors. Written assignments not provided will be assigned a grade of zero.

Policy Regarding Marked Examinations
There are no examinations. Graded written material will be discussed with the students on a one-on-one basis. Students can request that their paper be re-evaluated by both instructors. The grade decided by the instructors upon re-evaluation will be final.

Assignment of Final Grades
At the end of the course a final grade will be calculated according to the breakdown in the evaluations section. As stated in the GFC document “Marking and Grading Guidelines,” the final grade assigned will be a reflection of each student’s absolute achievement and relative performance in the class.

Code of Student Behavior
All students in the course are subject to the Code of Student Behavior, which can be accessed at: http://www.ualberta.ca/~unisecr/policy/sec30.html.
Course description as well as upcoming seminars will be posted at http://www.graduate-studies-in-cancer-research.org/index.html and http://www.oncology.med.ualberta.ca/Education/Graduate%20Training%20Programs/Pages/Graduate-Courses.aspx.

Seminar notices will be sent to your e-mail address by Gwen Mendoza (gmendoza@ualberta.ca. Please let her know if you are not receiving the seminar notices.