MCB 325
The Biology of Cancer
Fall 2018
Tuesday and Thursday 2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.
Steward Observatory, Rm N210

Instructors

Justina McEvoy, Ph.D.
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Office hours
Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:00 - 1:00 pm
Arizona Cancer Center (AZCC), room 4945
1515 N. Campbell (near UMC entrance)

Teaching Assistants

Holly Welfley
hwelfley@email.arizona.edu
Office hour: Wednesdays 2:00-3:00pm (AZCC 4946)

Carly Wiersma
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Office hour: Fridays 9:00-10:00am (AZCC 3955)

Kun Xiong
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Office hour: Wednesdays 11:00-12:00pm (LSS 304)

Preceptors
Alexa Nguyen, Matthew Lemke, Chris Wang, Jessy Forelli, Samson Tesfaye, Steven Beres

Description: This is a course that is designed to help intermediate level students understand the biology of cancer. The molecular and cellular biology of cancer, experimental models of cancer and clinical aspects will be explored. Current therapies and the future of the field of cancer biology will be discussed.

Course objectives: By the end of this course, each student should understand the general molecular and cellular biology of cancer and how it applies to the subtypes of cancer covered in class. Students should also have a broad understanding of cancer research and targeted therapies.

Required Text: Understanding Cancer: From Discovery to Therapy, Joyce Schroeder, PhD (link below, be sure to use the ‘click here’ link for purchasing)
https://www.grtep.com/index.cfm/core/enroll/courseLookup

**Extra credit** one extra point will be added to your final grade with the purchase of the required text AND checking the box indicating that you have read the syllabus. You must check the box to receive the extra point.

**Weekly Calendar:** A weekly schedule of lectures is posted in D2L under the “content” section. This is where slides and assignment keys will be posted each week.

**Grades:** Grades will be based on quizzes, group problem sets and exams. There will be no curving.

**Make-up Assignments:** Make-ups will only be given in cases of documented emergencies, and must be requested and taken within 48 hours of the assignment date. A maximum of 2 make-ups per assignment type will be allowed (i.e. 2 quizzes, 2 group problem sets, 2 exams). Other considerations may be requested but no there is no guarantee your request will be granted. This decision will be left to the discretion of the instructor.

**Quizzes:**
12 Quizzes will be given (10 points/quiz), and the lowest 2 quiz scores will be dropped.
Questions for the quizzes will be based on the previous week's lecture and are time limited.

*Total points for quizzes: 100*

**Group Problem Sets:**
- Each week, students will discuss (in groups) a problem posed to the class. The group will solve the problem and turn in their solution at the end of class.
- Groups can be no larger than 4 students, ensure that each students name is on the assignment when it is turned in.
- *The entire group must be present at the time the assignment is turned in for full credit.*
- 12 group problems will be given (10 points/problem set), and the lowest 2 problem set scores will be dropped for each student.
- *Total points for problems: 100*

**Exams:**
There will be three exams during the semester, including the non-comprehensive final exam. Questions will be short answer and similar in scope and style to the problem sets given throughout the course. Each exam will be worth 70 points.

*Total points for exams: 210*

Therefore, if you accumulate the following points, you will receive the following grade:

A (369-410)
B (328-368)
C (287-327)
D (246-286)
E (245 or below)
The final examination will be held on 12/11/18 in Steward Observatory room N210 3:30-5:30.

For final exam schedule and regulation please click on: http://www.registrar.arizona.edu/students/courses/final-exams

IMPORTANT: Assignments are fill-in answers. PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY. Points will not be given if the answers are not legible.

Regrades: Regrade requests must be made within 2 weeks of the assignment.

Regrade requests must follow these steps:

1. Download the answer key (found on the weekly calendar), and compare your answer to the key

2. On a separate piece of paper, explain why you should receive more points according to the key. If the points were simply added wrong and/or transferred to D2L incorrectly, just bring the original assignment to Dr. McEvoy and ask her to fix it.

3. Attach your request to your original assignment and turn it into Dr. McEvoy for a regrade.

Distribution of class materials: The instructor does not give permission to distribute class materials on the internet or any type of social media platform.

Subject to Change Statement: The information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policies, may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Absence and Class Participation Policy: The UA’s policy concerning Class Attendance, Participation, and Administrative Drops is available at: http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/class-attendance-participation-and-administrative-drop

The UA policy regarding absences for any sincerely held religious belief, observance or practice will be accommodated where reasonable, http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/religious-accommodation-policy.

Absences pre-approved by the UA Dean of Students (or Dean Designee) will be honored. See: https://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/absences

Participating in the course and attending lectures and other course events are vital to the learning process. As such, attendance is required at all lectures and discussion section meetings. Students who miss class due to illness or emergency are required to bring documentation from their health-care provider or other relevant, professional third parties. Failure to submit third-party documentation will result in unexcused absences.

Accessibility and Accommodations: Our goal in this classroom is that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on
disability, please let me know immediately so that we can discuss options. You are also welcome to contact the Disability Resource Center (520-621-3268) to establish reasonable accommodations. For additional information on the Disability Resource Center and reasonable accommodations, please visit http://drc.arizona.edu.

If you have reasonable accommodations, please plan to meet with me by appointment or during office hours to discuss accommodations and how my course requirements and activities may impact your ability to fully participate.

Please be aware that the accessible table and chairs in this room should remain available for students who find that standard classroom seating is not usable.

**Code of Academic Integrity:** Students are encouraged to share intellectual views and discuss freely the principles and applications of course materials. However, graded work/exercises must be the product of independent effort unless otherwise instructed. Students are expected to adhere to the UA Code of Academic Integrity as described in the UA General Catalog. See: http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/codeofacademicintegrity http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/academic-integrity/students/academic-integrity.

The University Libraries have some excellent tips for avoiding plagiarism, available at http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html.

* Selling class notes and/or other course materials to other students or to a third party for resale is not permitted without the instructor’s express written consent. Violations to this and other course rules are subject to the Code of Academic Integrity and may result in course sanctions. Additionally, students who use D2L or UA e-mail to sell or buy these copyrighted materials are subject to Code of Conduct Violations for misuse of student e-mail addresses. This conduct may also constitute copyright infringement.

**UA Nondiscrimination and Anti-harassment Policy** : The University is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free of discrimination; see http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/nondiscrimination-and-anti-harassment-policy

Our classroom is a place where everyone is encouraged to express well-formed opinions and their reasons for those opinions. We also want to create a tolerant and open environment where such opinions can be expressed without resorting to bullying or discrimination of others.

**Classroom Behavior Policy:** To foster a positive learning environment, students and instructors have a shared responsibility. We want a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment where all of us feel comfortable with each other and where we can challenge ourselves to succeed. To that end, our focus is on the tasks at hand and not on extraneous activities (e.g., texting, chatting, reading a newspaper, making phone calls, web surfing, etc.).
Students are asked to refrain from disruptive conversations with people sitting around them during lecture. Students observed engaging in disruptive activity will be asked to cease this behavior. Those who continue to disrupt the class will be asked to leave lecture or discussion and may be reported to the Dean of Students.

**Threatening Behavior Policy:** The UA Threatening Behavior by Students Policy prohibits threats of physical harm to any member of the University community, including to oneself. See [http://policy.arizona.edu/education-and-student-affairs/threatening-behavior-students](http://policy.arizona.edu/education-and-student-affairs/threatening-behavior-students).

During this course, student conduct will be evaluated following these guidelines. Note that any plagiarism observed will result in a failing grade for that portion of the class.

**Computer use during class:** Computers/electronic devices may be used during class for the purpose of enhancing a student's understanding/knowledge of the day's topic. They may **NOT** be used during exams, quizzes or for non-class related activities.

**Additional Resources for Students:** UA Academic policies and procedures are available at [http://catalog.arizona.edu/policies](http://catalog.arizona.edu/policies)
Student Assistance and Advocacy information is available at [http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/student-assistance/students/student-assistance](http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/student-assistance/students/student-assistance)

**Confidentiality of Student Records**