



**MCB 295B**  
**Seeing is Believing**

Spring 2020

Wednesday: 11:00 am – 10:50 am

Location: Life Sciences South 240

**Description of Course**

Students will explore current research and career opportunities in molecular and cellular biology. The focus of this colloquium is on key and recent discoveries as well as scientific insights into cell and molecular biology that were made using imaging approaches such as microscopy. This course is appropriate for students who have recently added or are interested in adding a molecular and cellular biology major. This is a second-year colloquium course that will highlight the interdisciplinarity and applicability of cell and molecular biology concepts in a wide range of careers.

**Instructor and Contact Information**

**Instructor**

Daniela C Zarnescu, Ph.D.

Professor, Molecular and Cellular Biology

Office hours: LSS 548A, Wednesday, 1-2 pm, or by appointment

[zarnescu@email.arizona.edu](mailto:zarnescu@email.arizona.edu)

**URL:** <http://D2L.arizona.edu>

**Course Format and Teaching Methods**

**Topics and Lecture Format:**

Topics will be determined by instructor and will be available at the beginning of the semester.

Lectures will consist of an introduction by instructor, presentations by students, student group discussions with in-class problem sets and possible career paths presentations.

**Course Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course, student will learn about imaging techniques and modalities relevant to the broader molecular and cellular biology research field. Students will get acquainted with reading primary research papers on the topics covered throughout the course. This course is aligned with the conceptual and skill outcomes expected to be acquired by MCB majors (<http://assessment.arizona.edu/sci/molecular/undergrad>).

**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. It is recommended that students who miss class due to illness or emergency notify the instructor as soon as possible. Failure to do so may result in unexcused absences.

### **Makeup Policy for Students Who Register Late**

Students who register after the first class meeting may make up missed assignments. Consult with Instructor for deadline.

### **Course Communications**

All course related communications will be conducted through email and D2L. Please use MCB295B in the subject line. The instructor will aim to respond to student emails within 24 hrs.

### **Required Texts or Readings**

Reading materials and primary research articles (TBD by instructor) will be available in D2L or PubMed.

### **Grading components, Assignments and Examinations**

- **Student attendance: 15 pts (you can miss two class periods with advance notice).**
- **Class participation: 15 pts**
- **Other assignments-there will be two reports due during the semester: 2 x 15 pts=30 pts**
- **Final exam will be replaced by a student presentation: 40 pts (to be scheduled during semester)**

### **Final Examination or Project**

See above.

### **Grading Scale and Policies**

#### **Grading:**

Regular grades are awarded for this course A B C D E. There will be no grade curving. Grades will be assigned as follows: A= 90-100%; B = 80-89%; C=65-79%; D=55-64%; E =<55%.

**Requests for incomplete (I) or withdrawal (W)** must be made in accordance with University policies, which are available at <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/grades-and-grading-system#incomplete> and <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/grades-and-grading-system#Withdrawal> respectively.

### **Honors Credit**

Students wishing to contract this course for Honors Credit should email me to set up an appointment to discuss the terms of the contract. Information on Honors Contracts can be found at

<http://www.honors.arizona.edu/faculty-and-advisors/contracts>.

### **Scheduled Topics/Activities**

See class calendar in D2L.

### **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 discussion. 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>.

### **Accessibility and Accommodations**

At the University of Arizona we strive to make learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience barriers based on disability or pregnancy, please contact the Disability Resource Center (520-621-3268, <https://drc.arizona.edu/>) to establish reasonable accommodations.

### **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/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.

**Additional Resources for Students**

UA Academic policies and procedures are available at <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policies>

Student Assistance and Advocacy information is available at <http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/student-assistance/students/student-assistance>

**Confidentiality of Student Records**

<http://www.registrar.arizona.edu/personal-information/family-educational-rights-and-privacy-act-1974-ferpa?topic=ferpa>

**Subject to Change Statement**

Information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policy, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.