

Special Topic in Cancer: “It’s not all about genes” (BIOL6000/8000)

Syllabus SPRING 2009

TIME: 11:00A M-12:15 PM, Woodward 154

INSTRUCTOR: Didier Dréau, PhD

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE:

Date		Topics
January	Tuesday 13	Introduction
	Thursday 15	Basic Tumor Biology I (origin, type)
	Tuesday 20	Basic Tumor Biology II (molecular events)
	Thursday 22	Basic Tumor Biology III (cellular events)
	Tuesday 27	Oncogenes /virus
	Thursday 29	Cell Cycle
February	Tuesday 3	Tumor suppressor genes
	Thursday 5	Student presentations*
	Tuesday 10	Student presentations* / Paper 1 due
	Thursday 12	P53, pRb
	Tuesday 17	Growth regulation
	Thursday 19	Apoptosis
	Tuesday 24	Cell immortalization
	Thursday 26	Tumorigenesis
March	Tuesday 3	Student presentations*
	Thursday 5	Exam 1
	Tuesday 10	SPRING BREAK
	Thursday 12	
	Tuesday 17	Epigenetic events
	Thursday 19	Tumor microenvironment I (homotypic cell interactions)
	Tuesday 24	Tumor microenvironment II (cell-stromal cell interactions)
	Thursday 26	Tumor microenvironment III (cell-ECM interactions)
	Tuesday 31	Vascularization and tumor growth I
Thursday 2	Immune system and Tumor growth I	
Tuesday 7	Student presentations*	
Thursday 9	Student presentations* / Paper 2 due	
April	Tuesday 14	Immune system and Tumor growth II
	Thursday 16	Tumor models (in vivo, in vitro)
	Tuesday 21	Diagnosis – and Treatment
	Thursday 23	Some remaining questions in cancer biology
	Tuesday 28	Student presentations*
	Thursday 30	Final Exam

***Student presentations:** The schedule of each student presentation may be altered based on the subject and article chosen.

TEXTBOOK(s) (Optional) **The Biology of Cancer**, R. A. Weinberb (the following books will also be used: **The Molecular Biology of Cancer** S Pelengaris & M Kahn, Blackwell Publishing, 2006; **Cancer Biology**, RJB King & MW Robins 3rd Ed, Pearson Prentice Hall, 2006). Slides and articles provided on the class website accessible through 49ers account (Blackboard)

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

This syllabus contains the policies and expectations I have established for Special Topic in Cancer [Biol 6000-8000]. Please read the entire syllabus carefully before continuing in this course. These policies and expectations are intended to create a productive learning atmosphere for all students. Unless you are prepared to abide by these policies and expectations, you risk losing the opportunity to participate further in the course.

Every student learns differently, to master the Special Topic in Cancer [Biol 6000-8000] Class, knowing (if don't already) your Learning style may be very helpful. An advocate of active learning, Dr. Felder, professor at North Carolina State University has developed an online (<http://www.engr.ncsu.edu/learningstyles/ilsweb.html>) test that I would urge you to take.

INSTRUCTOR

If you have questions, call or come see me before and after class. I am available on **appointments only**. Telephones & email remain great ways to communicate:

Didier Dréau	
Office	Woodward Bldg., Rm. 490B
Phone	704 687 8314
Email	through Web CT (49ers account)

EXAMS and GRADING

Exam materials include both the lecture and text (see WebCT). For this graduate level class, student evaluation will be based on in-class presentations (4 research article presentations and discussion), 2 research papers written analysis and 2 in-class exams.

In-class presentations *A total of four in-class presentations (20-30 min each) will be given: A template of the presentation is provided. The 3 best grades from the in-class presentations will account for 25% of the final grade.*

Written presentations *A total of 2 written presentations will need to be completed no later than the deadlines defined above. One additional presentation may be completed. The average grade of the 2 highest grades will account for 35% of the final grade.*

Exams *Two exams will be held during the class on materials presented and discussed in class (short-long essay questions). The 2 exams will account for 40% of the grade.*

Extra credit *A repeated and noted class absence **may** translate in minus (-5) points. On the other hand, extra credit **may** be given as bonus points on exams, for class attendance, and foremost for responsiveness in class.*

GRADING: *For the final grade, letter grades will be assigned as follows: 90-100% = A; 80-89% = B; 60-79% = C; and <60% =U.*

MAKEUP EXAMS *This policy is based on fairness for all students. If you experience an emergency that prevents you from taking the exam, you will be allowed to replace the missed exam by participating to **ONE** optional presentation.*

You will need to have legitimate documentation with explanation and contact me within 24 hours of the exam time. *This allowance is available only once during the semester. Legitimate excuses are documentation from a physician, auto repair shop, police or court, all on appropriate letterhead stating why you could not be at the exam. Notes from parents do not count. An unexcused exam will result in zero point awarded.*

You are expected to attend ALL classes, and participate to ALL class exercises, take ALL Exams. In special cases, a make-up exam may be granted.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND ATTENDANCE

Ethics: When you put your name on an exam, or any work and turn it in, you certify that the contents are your independent thoughts, unless clearly noted otherwise. Any evidence of cheating, copying or other type of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and result in the grade of U for the course, or worse. See the UNCC code of student academic integrity.

Students are required to observe University policies on Attendance (UNCC 1999-2001 Catalog, 27) and Academic Integrity and Student Responsibility (UNCC 1999-2001 Catalog, 375-376). All work by students is subject to the standards of "The UNCC Code of Student Academic Integrity" and it is the responsibility of the student to understand the definitions of and penalties for violation.

All students are required to read and abide by the Code of **Student Academic Integrity**. Violations of the Code of Student Academic Integrity, including plagiarism, will result in disciplinary action as provided in the Code.

Definitions and examples of plagiarism are set forth in the Code. The Code is available from the Dean of Students Office or online at: <http://www.legal.uncc.edu/policies/ps-105.html>

Orderly and Productive Conduct

I will conduct this class in an atmosphere of mutual respect. I encourage your active participation in class discussions. Each of us may have strongly differing opinions on the various topics of class discussions. The conflict of **ideas** is encouraged and welcome. The orderly questioning of the ideas of others, including mine, is similarly welcome. However, I will exercise my responsibility to manage the discussions so that ideas and argument can proceed in an orderly fashion. You should expect that if your conduct during class discussions seriously disrupts the atmosphere of mutual respect I expect in this class, you will not be permitted to participate further.

Attendance in this class is mandatory, and you are expected to actively participate in all exercises. A significant amount of class exercises involves teamwork. Anticipate diversity in your project team and respect it. Make sure your team members are not excluded from lab activities or discussions. UNC Charlotte strives to create an academic climate in which the dignity of all individuals is respected and maintained. Therefore, we celebrate diversity that includes, but is not limited to ability/disability, age, culture, ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status.

Syllabus Revision

ANY SYLLABUS REVISION WILL BE PRECEDED BY REASONABLE NOTICE TO THE STUDENTS:

The standards and requirements set forth in this syllabus may be modified at any time by the course instructor. Notice of such changes will be by announcement in class, written note, email notice, or changes to this syllabus posted on the course website (accessible through 49ers).

Instructor's Absence or Tardiness

If I am late in arriving to class, you must wait a full 20 minutes after the start of class before you may leave without being counted absent, or you must follow any written instructions I may give you about my anticipated tardiness.

Disabilities

Students in this course seeking accommodations to disabilities must first consult with the Office of Disability Services and follow the instructions of that office for obtaining accommodations.

Sexual Harassment

All students are required to abide by the UNC Charlotte Sexual Harassment Policy (<http://www.legal.uncc.edu/policies/ps-61.html>) and the policy on Responsible Use of University Computing and Electronic Communication Resources (<http://www.legal.uncc.edu/policies/ps-66.html>). Sexual harassment, as defined in the UNC Charlotte Sexual Harassment Policy, is prohibited, even when carried out through computers or other electronic communications systems, including course-based chat rooms or message boards.

Bad Weather

IF UNCC classes are canceled on the day of an exam, the exam will be held on the next class day. OR, IF classes are canceled for the lecture before an exam, the exam will be held as scheduled, during the next class meeting. Come prepared!

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

How to learn is to ACTIVELY gain knowledge or Understanding or skill by study, instruction or experience?

Preparation! Read before you come to class!!! Take a look at the figures.

Set Goals! Adhere to a study plan so that you can deal with questions and have that pleasant prepared feeling when you enter an exam

Organize! Keep all your notes and handouts together, arranged by lecture in a Notebook, and don't lose it!

BE HERE! Students who attend lectures earn better grades & find studying easier!

Stay Put! Come to class on time, so that lectures may begin promptly. Plan to sit still and pay attention.
What is not said must be read

Be considerate! Maximize learning opportunity for all students. Silence all electronic or other noisy devices so that you do not disrupt class. The use of cell phones, beepers, or other communication devices is disruptive, and is therefore prohibited during class. Except in emergencies, those using such devices must leave the classroom for the remainder of the class period. Students are permitted to use computers during class for note-taking and other class-related work **only**. Those using computers during class for work not related to that class must leave the classroom for the remainder of the class period.

Heads Up! Use those neurons. Did what I said make sense or was it contradictory?

Hands Up! Active participation is opportunities to maximize the instructor's resources and to pose questions which other students probably also share. Lecture not clear? Need info? ASK!

Make friends! Get to know other students: form study groups or telephone links.

Limitations: Know your limits! Try to gauge the time it will take to complete a task, i.e. studying for an exam. Strive to realize what you can successfully and realistically accomplish within your private and professional life. Nothing feels better than a job well done!

Problems: **Address them before they metastasize.** If you feel lost, behind or have other concerns or conflicts about this course, talk to me promptly. Conversations are confidential.

Be Professional! To your fellow students and to me

Be Responsible! Know what is expected & do it with a smile.



Have fun learning!!

