

# 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 and participation, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> years of their program, for a total of 3 seminars.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS REGISTERED FOR CREDIT**

1. As Oncology 660/661 is a course where you learn from attending seminars, with no formal examinations, any student who cannot attend at least 75% of the seminars (even with a valid excuse) will receive a grade of Incomplete, and will have to fulfill course requirements in the subsequent year.
2. Students registered in Oncology 660 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.
3. Students registered in Oncology 660 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.
4. Members of the Supervisory Committee will be invited by the Student Program Assistant to attend the seminar.
5. 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.
6. Students registered in Oncology 660 will write an essay as described below as part of the course requirements.
7. Attendance and participation requirements are described under evaluation/grading.

## **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](#)

Miller, L., Weaver, A., and Johnson, C., Ed. Ross, C., Hankerson, S., Irwin, M., Stone, A. and Higley, D., Giving a Good Scientific Presentation

## EVALUATION/GRADING FOR ONCOLOGY 660

Seminar	60%	Short Essay	25%
Abstract	5%	Participation	10%

**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; single-spaced. Students will be penalized for not following the formatting instructions and 1% will be deducted for each day late. The abstract should be emailed to the Student Program Assistant ([mburns2@ualberta.ca](mailto:mburns2@ualberta.ca)). The abstract will be evaluated for conciseness, grammar and clarity of presentation.

**Short Essay (25%):** An electronic copy (Word format or editable pdf) should be emailed to the Graduate Student Assistant ([mburns2@ualberta.ca](mailto:mburns2@ualberta.ca)) by 4:00 pm on **April 2, 2020 (Thursday)**. Include a cover page with your name, course number and essay title. The Student Program Assistant will “blind” the essays by removing the cover page and distribute the essays to the four course coordinators for marking.

The essay should be 5 double-spaced pages with one inch margins and with a font size of 12 pts (Times New Roman). Figures and references are not included in the five page limit. The essay will be on a topic selected by the course coordinators in consultation with the graduate students. 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 Essay late, calculated at 5% for each day late. For example, an essay handed in 5 days late will result in an overall mark of 0%.

Your essay will be evaluated based on: (i) quality of the writing including sentence structure, spelling and grammar (10%); (ii) logical flow, coherence, clarity (25%); (iii) accuracy, supporting evidence, scientific merit, how well does it answer the question (40%); (iv) ability to draw novel connections between concepts and to justify the rationale for doing so (i.e. innovative thinking) (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 (**however, note that**

**students must attend at least 75% of seminars in order not to get an Incomplete in the course).** Should a student miss a seminar without a valid excuse, we will deduct 2% (per missed seminar) from their overall mark.

***Students enrolled in Oncology 660 will be expected to ask at least two questions during the Winter term in order to get full participation marks.***

## **GENERAL INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED IN ONCOLOGY 660/661**

### **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](http://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.*

**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/~unisechr/policy/sec30.html>.

Course description as well as upcoming seminars will be posted at <http://www.oncology.med.ualberta.ca/Education/Graduate%20Training%20Programs/Pages/Graduate-Courses.aspx>.

Seminar notices will be sent to your e-mail address. Please let Mary Burns (mburns2@ualberta.ca) know if you are not receiving the seminar notices.