



School of Science
BIOL 201
Cell Biology
Term: Fall
Number of Credits: 3

Course Outline

INSTRUCTOR: Kate Chatfield-Reed, PhD

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TIME/DATES: M/W 9:00 – 10:30 am (lectures) T 2:30 – 5:30 pm (labs) in A2805

OFFICE HOURS: anytime, schedule by email

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This core second-year biology course examines the structure and function of cells and cell membranes in detail. Students gain an understanding of processes such as cell mobility, the cell cycle and cellular reproduction, vesicular transport, endo- and exocytosis, and membrane transport. Cellular genetics (cytogenetics), homeostasis of the cell, and the evolution of cell organelles will also be examined. Students will gain understanding of cellular flow of information from genetic code to protein and the importance of this flow in cellular processes. Students will gain hands-on experience in basic cellular biology lab techniques, such as various microscope, specimen staining, assay, and separation techniques.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of BIOL 101 and BIOL 102 or equivalent, with a final minimum grade of C in both. Successful completion of a university-level first-year chemistry course (e.g., CHEM 110).

EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

This course transfers to most universities in BC as second-year Cell Biology. However, please be aware that receiving institutions determine final course transferability. Find further information at:

<https://www.yukonu.ca/admissions/transfer-credit>

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- explain the unifying and separating features of prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells and the implications of these features in evolution and diseases that impact humans,
- identify and explain the structure and function of all organelles in eukaryotic cells using an evolutionary approach,
- explain molecular structure and diversity of the four types of molecules important to life: carbohydrate, lipid, protein, and nucleic acids and how these molecules facilitate cellular function,

- describe how organelles and membranes work individually and together to achieve homeostasis of the cell,
- outline and compare theories of evolution of organelles and metabolism, including the function of electron transport chains and energy flow, and
- understand the cell cycle, controls, molecular signalling, and interactions between cells, as well as the identifying features and metabolism of cancer cells.

Lab learning outcome: students will be able to demonstrate lab techniques relating to cellular biology such as microscope and staining techniques of both live and preserved specimens, isolation and separation techniques as well as identification of organelles and features of cells.

COURSE FORMAT

This course will be delivered with the following breakdown per week: three hours of lecture (in two 1.5-hour blocks), one three-hour lab, and zero hours of tutorial. Although it will vary from individual to individual, students should expect to spend 3 hours on course material outside of the classroom time (per week) on studying or completing assignments.

Delivery format

This course will be delivered in a face-to-face (in person) format. Students will be expected to access the YU online learning platform for additional material (Moodle). Labs are conducted in person.

EVALUATION

Lecture Assignments	15 %
Midterm exams (2)	20 %
Lab Exams (2)	10 %
Lab Assignments	25 %
Final Exam	30 %
Total	100%

Lecture Assignments

Most assignments will be completed during lecture as in-class activities while other assignments will be taken home to be completed outside of class time.

Midterm Exams

Midterm exams are given during normally scheduled class time and take 45-90 minutes complete.

Lab Exams

There is no final exam for the laboratory portion of the course, instead there will be two lab quizzes during the semester. Quizzes are given at the start of the lab period and take 10-15 minutes to complete. They are based on material covered in the previous labs and focus on techniques and data analysis.

Lab Assignments

Students are expected to read lab material before coming into the lab. Lab assignments are handed out at the beginning of lab sessions and are to be completed once lab exercises are completed. They are due within one week unless otherwise announced. Late assignments may be deducted -5% of marks per day. Some larger lab assignments may be assigned that build on material covered over multiple labs.

Final Exam

Students will use their knowledge of methods and applications in microbiology to answer multiple choice, short answer, and long answer questions.

Students must pass the lab and lecture portions of the course independently.

COURSE WITHDRAWAL INFORMATION

The last date to withdraw without academic penalty is Oct. 31, 2025. Refer to the YukonU website for other important dates.

TEXTBOOKS & LEARNING MATERIALS

Students are required to purchase a textbook; either as a hard copy from the YU bookstore, or an online eText access through the publisher (Pearson).

Becker's World of the Cell, 9th or 10th edition. 2016. J. Hardin and G. Bertoni. Pearson Benjamin Cummings. San Francisco, CA, USA.

Students will be expected to read and understand scientific articles relating to course material.

Lab materials (e.g., lab manuals) are provided in the form of three-hole punched pages at least one week prior to the scheduled lab.

Students are required to wear a lab coat during lab sessions. These can be purchased from YU for \$20. Students are also required to use disposable gloves and safety glasses on occasion. These are provided.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to contribute toward a positive and supportive environment and are required to conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Academic misconduct includes all forms of academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, fraud, deceit, using the work of others without their

permission, aiding other students in committing academic offences, misrepresenting academic assignments prepared by others as one's own, or any other forms of academic dishonesty including falsification of any information on any Yukon University document.

Please refer to Academic Regulations & Procedures for further details about academic standing and student rights and responsibilities.

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Yukon University is committed to providing a positive, supportive, and barrier-free academic environment for all its students. Students experiencing barriers to full participation due to a visible or hidden disability (including hearing, vision, mobility, learning disability, mental health, chronic or temporary medical condition), should contact [Accessibility Services](#) for resources or to arrange academic accommodations: access@yukonu.ca.

TOPIC OUTLINE

UNIT	TOPIC	WEEK	Chapter
Introduction – Overview of the Cell, Cell Theory, history of cell theory		1	CH. 1
Chemistry of the cell		2	
Synthesis of polymers and macromolecules			CH. 2
Nucleic acids, amino acids, protein structure			CH. 3
Lipid bilayers, membrane proteins			
Cellular organelles, review and overview		3	CH. 4
Bioenergetics of the cell		4	CH. 5
Enzymes, Enzyme kinetics		5	CH. 6
Metabolism, overview of glycolysis and cellular respiration			CH. 9
Midterm I October 8th			
Biological flow of information from DNA to protein		6	CH 17
DNA replication, repair and recombination			
Gene Expression		7	CH 18
The Genetic Code, Transcription, translation			
Protein Synthesis and Sorting		8	CH 19
Midterm II November 5th			
Membranes: structure, function, diversity		9	CH 7
Transport across membranes		10	CH 8
The Energetics of Transport			
The Endomembrane System		11	CH 12
The Cytoskeletal system		12	CH 13
Cell Motility			CH 14
Cell Adhesions, cellular junctions and extracellular structures		13	CH 15
The Cell Cycle and Cancer Cells (as time allows)			CH 24
			CH 25
Review			

*Final exam – date set by administration and available on the website
<https://www.yukonu.ca/programs/courses/biol-201>*

Lab Schedule and List of Topics – *Labs start in the second week of classes.*

Labs take place in Room A2805

Lab 1 Introduction to the lab, safety, microscopes, and cell counting

Lab 2 Cells and organelles – isolation and catalytic activity of chloroplasts

Lab 3 Cell Behaviour and cell counting review

Lab 4 Measurement of protein content of cells, Part I

Lab 5 Measurement of protein content of cells, Part II

Lab 6 Lab Quiz #1, Purification of mitochondria part I, introduction to cell cultures

Lab 7 Purification of mitochondria part II, isolating plasmid DNA and electrophoresis

Lab 8 PCR, DNA amplification and gel electrophoresis

Lab 9 Cytochemical methods, the cell cycle, mitosis and meiosis

Lab 10 Lab Quiz #2 and student presentations

Lab topics can change depending on availability of materials.