# Department of Biology Course Outline

**SC/BIOL 4010 3.00 Biology of Cancer**  
Winter 2018-9

## Learning Outcomes

The main objective of the Biology of Cancer course is to develop the understanding of the basic molecular and cellular concepts and principles related to the development of cancer, and its medical application to treatment and prevention.

The course examines molecular and cellular aspects that affect the development of cancer in humans, approaching DNA mutations and viral infections as major causes of the disease. Furthermore, the course will illustrate rational treatments and preventions for cancer.

## Prerequisites

- SC/BIOL 3130 3.00 or SC/BCHM 3130 3.00.

## Course Instructors and Contact Information

**Course Director:** Dr. Motti Anafi  
moanafi@yorku.ca

**Office hours:**  
Email to set up an appointment

## Schedule

**Course Schedule and Location:** Mondays 2:30-5:30pm in CB 129

## Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Details</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Mid-Term Exam 1     | 25%    | Date: Monday, Feb 11, 2019  
Time: 4:00PM  
Duration: 60 minutes  
Location: TBA |
| Mid-Term Exam 2     | 25%    | Date: Monday, March 18, 2019  
Time: 4:00PM  
Duration: 60 minutes  
Location: TBA |
| Final Exam          | 50%    | Date and location: will be published by the registrar office.  
Duration: 150 minutes |
| Contribution to the Wiki | up to 2 points (bonus) |
## Important Dates

### ADD/DROP DEADLINES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>FALL (F)</th>
<th>YEAR (Y)</th>
<th>WINTER (W)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Last date to add a course without permission of instructor</td>
<td>Sept. 18</td>
<td>Sept. 18</td>
<td>Jan. 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>(also see Financial Deadlines)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last date to add a course with permission of instructor</td>
<td>Oct. 2</td>
<td>Oct. 23</td>
<td>Jan. 30</td>
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<td>(also see Financial Deadlines)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade</td>
<td>Nov. 9</td>
<td>Feb. 8</td>
<td>March 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>(also see Financial Deadlines)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a</td>
<td>Nov. 10 -</td>
<td>Feb. 9 -</td>
<td>March 9 -</td>
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<tr>
<td>grade of “W” on transcript – see note below)</td>
<td>Dec. 4</td>
<td>Apr. 3</td>
<td>Apr. 3</td>
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### SESSIONAL DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>FALL (F)</th>
<th>YEAR (Y)</th>
<th>WINTER (W)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classes start</td>
<td>Sept. 5</td>
<td>Sept. 5</td>
<td>Jan. 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last date to announce components of final grades</td>
<td>Sept. 19</td>
<td>Sept. 19</td>
<td>Jan. 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall Reading Week(^1) (no classes, University open)</td>
<td>Oct. 6-12</td>
<td>Oct. 6-12</td>
<td>Jan. 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last date to submit Fall term work</td>
<td>Dec. 4</td>
<td>Dec. 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall classes end</td>
<td>Dec. 4</td>
<td>Dec. 4</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall Study Day(^2) (no classes; University open)</td>
<td>Dec. 5</td>
<td>Dec. 5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall examinations(^4)</td>
<td>Dec. 6-21</td>
<td>Dec. 6-21</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Winter Reading Week(^1) (no classes, University open)</td>
<td>Feb. 16-22</td>
<td>Feb. 16-22</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Last date to submit Winter term work</td>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>April 3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Winter classes end(^3)</td>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>April 3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Winter Study Days(^4) (no classes; University open)</td>
<td>April 4</td>
<td>April 4</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Winter examinations(^4,(^5)</td>
<td>April 5-20</td>
<td>April 5-20</td>
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Course Content and optional/required reading

**Part 1: The Nature of Cancer**
*Weinberg Textbook Reading: Chapter 1, 11*
- The development of tumours from normal tissues
- The hallmarks of cancer *(read required reading no. 1)*
- Epidemiology of sporadic (non-heritable) cancers

**Part 2: Oncogenes**
*Weinberg Textbook Reading: Chapters 3, 4, 5, 13*
- Retroviruses and the discovery of oncogenes
- Activation of protooncogenes in human cancer
  - Tyrosine kinases as cellular oncogenes *(read required reading no. 2)*
  - G proteins and uncontrolled proliferation
- Telomere, Telomerase in cell immortalization and cancer
- Angiogenesis in tumors and metastasis

**Part 3: Tumour Suppressor Genes in Cancer**
*Weinberg Textbook Reading: Chapters 7, 8, 9*
- Sporadic and Inherited Cancer
- pRb: retinoblastoma and cancer
- BRCAs and breast cancer
- p53: The evasion of cell cycle regulation and apoptosis

**Part 4: Infection, Inflammation and Cancer**
*Weinberg Textbook Reading: Chapters 15*
- Inflammation and human cancer
- Papilloma viruses and Cervical Neoplasia *(read required reading no. 3)*
- Hepatitis viruses and liver cancer *(read required reading no. 4)*

**Part 5: The Future of Rational Treatment and Prognosis of Cancer**
*Weinberg Textbook Reading: Chapters 13, 16*
- Cancer genomics *(read required reading no. 5)*
- The path from Abelson leukemia virus to Gleevec *(read required reading no. 6)*

Resources

**Required Readings (Review articles)**

   *(http://www.cell.com/cell/fulltext/S0092-8674(11)00127-9 )*

   *(http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v411/n6835/full/411355a0.html )*


   *(http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3749880/pdf/nihms496129.pdf )*

Recommended Readings:
1) The Biology of Cancer, by Robert A. Weinberg (Second Edition)

   A. Available at York University bookstore and on reserve in Stacie Library
   There are additional ways to get the book in other (cheaper) formats
   C. Vital Source e-chapters https://www.vitalsource.com/textbooks?utf8=%E2%9C%93&sort=&term=9780815342205+chapter

2) Additional textbook:
   • **Retroviruses**. Coffin, John M.; Hughes, Stephen H.; Varmus, Harold E.

Experiential Education and E-Learning

The Course MOODLE web site
To access Moodle, please follow the instructions below.
1. Go to: http://moodle.yorku.ca
2. Log in with your Passport York account.

Here you will find
• An updated course outline
• The course wiki
• Forum
• Announcements
• Grades

Please note that the course director’s announcements on the Moodle and in-class updates take precedence over any other information in the course MOODLE web site.

If you have technical Moodle-related questions, please direct them to UIT Client Services at 416.736.2100 x55800 or email helpdesk@yorku.ca.
Other Information

Tips on studying for this course:

- For the exams, you must know and understand the material presented in the lectures and in the required reading mentioned above.
- The textbook can help students consolidate and expand their understanding of the material. However, much of the textbook will not be covered in class. For the exams you are NOT expected to know material from the textbook which has not been covered in the lectures.
- Students need to attend all lectures to do well in the course. The discussions in class are critical for the understanding of the material. The center of the course is the lectures. It is your responsibility to attend lectures as my multimedia presentations will not be provided outside the classrooms. Do not rely on the Wiki: take your own notes.
- The material presented in the lectures and other components of the course such as tests and exam have been developed from a large variety of resources, including websites, textbook supplements and the material mentioned above.
- In general, it is best that a student who was unable to attend a lecture borrow the relevant notes from a classmate. You may also wish to check the course Moodle website for additional relevant material. Here, you can find an updated course outline. In addition, you can use the course wiki. Furthermore, you have my permission to use an audio tape-recorder in class (or to arrange with a classmate to do it for you).
- I will usually be available before/after each lecture to address individual questions. If you need to speak with me out of class, please send me an email to set an appointment.

Course Policies

Tests and Exams

Attendance for all exams is mandatory. Exams missed on the ground of medical circumstances must be supported by a formal Attending Physician’s Statement, which can be downloaded from the registrar’s office web site, or a statement by a psychologist or counsellor. Students are NOT expected to disclose the nature of the illness. The document must specify:

1) date of consultation
2) contact information (e.g. phone number of the hospital; legible name of the health provider) that would allow verification of the document
3) a statement that the student would not have been able to attend class (or carry out activities) during the relevant period of time

The documentation must be dated on the same day as the exam or earlier, or it will not be accepted. The Course Director must be notified by email within 24 hours in the case of a missed test or exam. Appropriate documentation must be submitted to the Course Director within one week after the test or exam. **No opportunities to make up missed mid-term exams will be offered. However, after acceptable justification for a missed exam has been received, the percentage value of the missed mid-term will be added to the final exam.** If the final exam is missed, the student must petition the Registrar for permission to write the final exam. Deferred exams are similar to the original exam in terms of material covered and level of difficulty. However, the format is not likely to be identical to the original exam. Accordingly, all approved deferred exams will be consisting of short-answer questions (no multiple-choice).
Emailing the Course Director
Your email will be read and answered as soon as possible. However, we will open only e-mails that fulfill the following requirements:

- Your email must be sent from your regular yorku.ca email account (not from the moodle server). Do not use non-yorku.ca accounts (such as hotmail or personal gmail). Emails from non-yorku.ca accounts or from the Moodle will likely languish in a spam folder that is checked only intermittently.
- Be sure to include your full name and student number in your email text.
- Your email must include “BIOL4010” in the subject line
- Your email must NOT include an attachment.

Copyright Policy at York University (Q & A from YorkU Web site)

1. Question: Can I (the instructor) include copyrighted content in a class presentation without permission of the rights holder?

Answer: Yes, if you stay within the limits of the Copyright Act. The educational exceptions allow you to:
   - “make a copy of a work to be used to project an image of that copy using an overhead projector or similar device”
   - “You are not allowed to distribute copies in either paper or electronic form.”

2. Question: Can I (the instructor) post that same presentation on my Course website?

Answer: “No, the educational exceptions do not allow you to distribute copies in either paper or electronic form.”

Accordingly, my multimedia presentations will not be provided outside the classrooms.

Disclaimers
The information presented in the lectures is provided for educational purposes only and should not be considered as a medical advice.

University Policies

Academic Honesty and Integrity
York students are required to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and they are subject to the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty (http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/academic-honesty-senate-policy-on/). The Policy affirms the responsibility of faculty members to foster acceptable standards of academic conduct and of the student to abide by such standards.

There is also an academic integrity website with comprehensive information about academic honesty and how to find resources at York to help improve students’ research and writing skills, and cope with University life. Students are expected to review the materials on the Academic Integrity website at - http://www.yorku.ca/spark/academic_integrity/index.html

Access/Disability
York University is committed to principles of respect, inclusion and equality of all persons with disabilities across campus. The University provides services for students with disabilities (including physical, medical, learning and psychiatric disabilities) needing accommodation related to teaching and evaluation methods/materials. These services are made available to students in all Faculties and programs at York University.

Student's in need of these services are asked to register with disability services as early as possible to ensure that appropriate academic accommodation can be provided with advance notice. You are encouraged to schedule a time early in the term to meet with each professor to discuss your accommodation needs. Please note that registering with disabilities services and discussing your needs
with your professors is necessary to avoid any impediment to receiving the necessary academic accommodations to meet your needs.

**Additional information is available at the following websites:**
- Counselling & Disability Services - [http://cds.info.yorku.ca/](http://cds.info.yorku.ca/)
- York Accessibility Hub - [http://accessibilityhub.info.yorku.ca/](http://accessibilityhub.info.yorku.ca/)

**Ethics Review Process**
York students are subject to the York University *Policy for the Ethics Review Process for Research Involving Human Participants*. In particular, students proposing to undertake research involving human participants (e.g., interviewing the director of a company or government agency, having students complete a questionnaire, etc.) are required to submit an *Application for Ethical Approval of Research Involving Human Participants* at least one month before you plan to begin the research. If you are in doubt as to whether this requirement applies to you, contact your Course Director immediately.

**Religious Observance Accommodation**
York University is committed to respecting the religious beliefs and practices of all members of the community, and making accommodations for observances of special significance to adherents. Should any of the dates specified in this syllabus for an in-class test or examination pose such a conflict for you, contact the Course Director within the first three weeks of class. Similarly, should an assignment to be completed in a lab, practicum placement, workshop, etc., scheduled later in the term pose such a conflict, contact the Course Director immediately. Please note that to arrange an alternative date or time for an examination scheduled in the formal examination periods (December and April/May), students must complete an Examination Accommodation Form, which can be obtained from Student Client Services, Student Services Centre or online at [http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/exam_accommodation.pdf](http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/exam_accommodation.pdf)

**Student Conduct in Academic Situations**
Students and instructors are expected to maintain a professional relationship characterized by courtesy and mutual respect. Moreover, it is the responsibility of the instructor to maintain an appropriate academic atmosphere in the classroom and other academic settings, and the responsibility of the student to cooperate in that endeavour. Further, the instructor is the best person to decide, in the first instance, whether such an atmosphere is present in the class. The policy and procedures governing disruptive and/or harassing behaviour by students in academic situations is available at - [http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/disruptive-andor-harassing-behaviour-in-academic-situations-senate-policy/](http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/disruptive-andor-harassing-behaviour-in-academic-situations-senate-policy/)