BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Departmental Office: 600 Fairchild, 212-854-4581; mes2314@columbia.edu; biology@columbia.edu

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Undergraduate Programs and Laboratories:
Prof. Alice Heicklen, 744B Mudd; 212-854-5952; ah2289@columbia.edu

Online Resources:
FAQs for first-year students, prospective & current majors, and transfer students
Checklist of major requirements
Additional course information
Undergraduate research & job opportunities

The department offers broad training in basic biological disciplines, with an emphasis in cell and molecular biology. Students have many opportunities to participate in ongoing projects in research laboratories. All the biology-related majors require one year of introductory biology, plus additional courses as detailed in the major requirements and listed on the websites provided above.

The usual one-year introductory biology sequence is BIOI UN2005 INTRO BIO I: BIOCHEM,GEN,MOLEC+BIOI UN2006 INTRO BIO II:CELL BIO,DEV/PHYS, taken in the sophomore year, after one year of general chemistry. For more details, see Introductory Courses under Requirements—Major in Biology. All students interested in biology are encouraged to take BIOI UN1908 First Year Seminar in Biology in the fall semester of their first year.

Premedical students should consult with their advising dean or the preprofessional office for relevant details of medical school requirements. Students interested in graduate school should consult the biology career adviser, Dr. Molly Przeworski (mp3284@columbia.edu).

Nonscience majors who wish to take a biology course to fulfill the science requirement are encouraged to take BIOL UN1130 GENES AND DEVELOPMENT. Interested students should consult listings in other departments for courses related to biology.

Advanced Placement
The department grants 3 credits for a score of 5 on the AP Biology exam. Placement is determined by the department. Students with a 5 on the AP are encouraged to take BIOL UN2005 INTRO BIO I: BIOCHEM,GEN,MOLEC and BIOL UN2006 INTRO BIO II:CELL BIO,DEV/PHYS, but are not required to do so. For details, read the FAQ.

Transfer Credit
Transfer credits granted toward the degree are not automatically counted toward the major. The department determines which transfer credits can be counted toward the major. For most majors, at least four biology or biochemistry courses and at least 18 credits of the total (biology, biochemistry, math, physics, and chemistry) must be taken at Columbia. Barnard courses may not be substituted for the required Columbia courses without advance permission from the adviser. For neuroscience and behavior, one of the five biology course and one of the psychology courses may be transferred. Students who wish to count a course from outside Columbia toward their major must receive written approval from their adviser or the director of undergraduate studies. Students must supply a syllabus and/or course description to receive approval.

Advising
Biology Major and Concentration Advisers (CC):
For a list of current biology, biochemistry, biophysics, and neuroscience and behavior advisers, please visit http://biology.columbia.edu/programs/advisors

- A-G: Prof. Carol Prives, 816 Fairchild; clp3@columbia.edu
- H-N: Prof. Mary Ann Price, 744A Mudd; map2293@columbia.edu
- O-Z: Prof. Michelle Attnér, 744D Mudd; ma3325@columbia.edu

Biology Major and Concentration Adviser (GS):
Prof. Deborah Mowshowitz; 744D Mudd; dbm2@columbia.edu

Biochemistry Advisers (CC & GS):
Biochemistry: Prof. Liang Tong; lt133@columbia.edu

Chemistry: Prof. Vesna Gasperov, 355 Chandler Hall; vg2231@columbia.edu

Biophysics Adviser (CC & GS):
Prof. Ozgur Sahin, 908 Northwest Corner Building; os2246@columbia.edu

Neuroscience and Behavior Advisers (CC):
Neuroscience and Behavior Advisers (CC & GS):

Biology:
For last names beginning with A-P:
- Prof. Stuart Firestein, 1011B Fairchild; sif24@columbia.edu

Psychology: Prof. Alfredo Spagna, as5559@columbia.edu

Neuroscience and Behavior Advisers (GS):
Neuroscience and Behavior Advisers (CC & GS):

Biology: Prof. Deborah Mowshowitz; 744D Mudd; dbm2@columbia.edu

Psychology: Prof. Alfredo Spagna, as5559@columbia.edu

Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) Program
First-year students, sophomores, and juniors are eligible for the department’s paid internship program (SURF). This program is competitive; the department cannot assure every eligible student a place in any given summer.

Students apply to the program early in the spring term. A faculty committee headed by Dr. Alice Heicklen then matches selected students to appropriate labs. The deadline for SURF applications is at the beginning of the spring semester.

SURF students must submit a report on their work at the end of the summer session and participate in the following year’s annual Undergraduate Research Symposium. Although it does not carry any academic credit, SURF can be used toward the lab requirement for majors and toward graduation with honors. For detailed information on all summer research programs and how to apply, please visit the SURF website.

Current detailed descriptions of the SURF program and the application procedure are available at SURF’s website, https://biology.columbia.edu/
For more information on the Amgen Scholarship Program, please visit https://biology.columbia.edu/content/amgen-scholarship-program. Applications to all of these programs are through SURF.

Departmental Honors

Students must apply for departmental honors. Applications are due no later than one day before spring break of their senior year. For details, please visit the departmental website at https://biology.columbia.edu/content/honors-biological-sciences.

Professors

Peter Andolfatto
Harmen Bussemaker
Martin Chalfie
Stuart Firestein
Joachim Frank
Iva Greenwald
Tulle Hazelrigg
Oliver Hobert
John Hunt
Songtao Jia
Daniel Kalderon
Darcy Kelley
Laura Landweber
James Manley
Carol Prives
Ronald Prywes
Molly Przeworski
Ozgur Sahin
Brent Stockwell
Simon Tavare
Saeed Tavazoie
Liang Tong

Associate Professors

Jian Yang
Rafael Yuste

Assistant Professors

Lars Dietrich
Guy Sella

Lecturers

Ishmail Abdus-Saboor
Erin Barnhart
Laura Duvall
Jellert Gaublomme
Marko Jovanovic
Raju Tomer
Maria Tosches

Adjunct Faculty

Joshua Abrams
Michelle Attner
Ava Brent
Alice Heicklen
Mary Ann Price
Lili Yamasaki

Lewis Brown
Ronald Guido
D. Nam Ho
Donald Kirsch
John Loike
Alan Morrison
Deborah Mowshowitz
Vincent Racaniello
Guidelines for all Biological Sciences Majors, Concentrators, and Interdepartmental Majors

Returning students should check the departmental website for any last-minute changes and/or additional information. See especially undergraduate updates and list of department courses. All major and concentration requirements are detailed on the website and links provided below.

Exceptions to Requirements

Students must get written permission in advance for any exceptions to the requirements listed below. For the exceptions to be applied toward graduation, the student must notify the biology department in one of the following two ways:

1. The student can file a completed paper planning form, signed by a faculty adviser, in the biology department office at 600 Fairchild;  
2. The faculty member approving the exception can send an e-mail explaining the exceptions to mes2314@columbia.edu.

Grade Requirements for the Major

A grade of C- or higher must be earned and revealed on your transcript for any course – including the first – to be counted toward the major or concentration requirements. The grade of P is not acceptable. A course that was taken Pass/D/Fail may be counted if and only if the P is uncovered by the Registrar’s deadline.

Courses

Courses with the subject code HPSC or SCNC do not count toward the majors or concentrations.

Major in Biology

General Information

The requirements for the biology major include courses in biology, chemistry, physics, and mathematics.

The required biology courses are one year of introductory biology, two core courses in biology or biochemistry, two 3-point electives in biology or biochemistry, and an appropriate lab experience. See below for details.

The required courses outside the biology department are chemistry through organic (plus labs), one year of college-level physics (plus lab), and the completion of one year of college-level mathematics (usually calculus).

Alternative sequences to the above may be arranged in special circumstances, but only with the permission of the director of undergraduate studies or a departmental adviser obtained in advance; for example, certain courses listed in the Summer Term Bulletin, the School of General Studies Bulletin, and the Barnard College Bulletin may be applied toward the major. In addition, selected courses at the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center are open to advanced undergraduates. Credit toward the major for courses not listed in the Columbia College Bulletin must be discussed in advance with the director of undergraduate studies or a departmental adviser. Students are responsible for notifying the department of all exceptions either in writing or by e-mail as explained above.

Alternative programs must be arranged in advance with the director of undergraduate studies. Students planning graduate work in biology should keep in mind that physical chemistry and statistics are important for many graduate programs.

Introductory Courses

The usual one-year introductory biology sequence is BIOL UN2005 INTRO BIO I: BIOCHEM,GEN,MOLEC-BIOL UN2006 INTRO BIO II:CELL BIO,DEV/PHYS, taken in the sophomore year.

Other sequences require permission in advance from the director of undergraduate studies or departmental advisers. Students with a strong background in chemistry or molecular biology may take BIOL UN2005 INTRO BIO I: BIOCHEM,GEN,MOLEC-BIOL UN2006 INTRO BIO II:CELL BIO,DEV/PHYS in their first year; the permission of one of the instructors is required.

Premedical students usually take BIOL UN2005 INTRO BIO I: BIOCHEM,GEN,MOLEC-BIOL UN2006 INTRO BIO II:CELL BIO,DEV/PHYS after a year of general chemistry.

Students with advanced placement in biology are expected to take BIOL UN2005 INTRO BIO I: BIOCHEM,GEN,MOLEC as their initial biology course, because BIOL UN2005 INTRO BIO I: BIOCHEM,GEN,MOLEC-BIOL UN2006 INTRO BIO II:CELL BIO,DEV/PHYS is taught at a level of detail and depth not found in most advanced placement courses.

Students who wish to skip BIOL UN2005 INTRO BIO I: BIOCHEM,GEN,MOLEC and start with a higher-level biology course may do so, but they must obtain permission in advance from the director of undergraduate studies. For additional information, see FAQs for first-year students.

Core Courses

Two out of the following five departmental core courses are required:

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL UN3022</td>
<td>DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY</td>
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<td>BIOL UN3031</td>
<td>GENETICS</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL UN3041</td>
<td>CELL BIOLOGY</td>
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<tr>
<td>or BIOL GU4041</td>
<td>Cell Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL GU4501</td>
<td>Biochemistry I - Structure # Metabolism</td>
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<tr>
<td>or BIOL UN3300</td>
<td>Biochemistry</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL GU4512</td>
<td>Molecular Biology</td>
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Laboratory Courses

A laboratory experience in biology is required. It may be fulfilled by completing any one of the following options:

Option 1:

Select one of the following 5-point laboratory courses:

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<th>Course Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL UN3058</td>
<td>PROJECT LAB IN MICROBIOLOGY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL UN3052</td>
<td>PROJECT LAB-MOLECULAR GENETICS</td>
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Option 2:
BIOL UN2501  CONTEMPORARY BIOLOGY LAB
Select an additional 3-point lab such as BIOL UN3040, a 5-point project lab, or a Barnard lab. Barnard labs must be approved by a Biology Major Advisor.

**Option 3:**
Two terms of BIOL UN3500 taken for a letter grade, including the submission of a satisfactory research report at the end of each semester

**Option 4:**
Completion of all the requirements for one session of the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF). An additional semester of BIOL UN3500 in the same research lab is recommended but not required. Summer lab work under other auspices may not be substituted for the SURF Program.

The laboratory fee ($150) partially covers the cost of nonreturnable items. This fee is charged for all lab courses, except BIOL UN3500 Independent Biological Research and SURF.

**Upper-Level Elective Courses**
Select two additional courses, carrying at least 3 points each, from any of the 3000- or 4000-level lecture courses. BIOL UN3500 INDEPENDENT BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH cannot be used as one of the courses to satisfy the upper-level elective course requirement. A list of 3000- or 4000-level approved electives can be found on the biology website: [https://www.biology.columbia.edu/pages/biology-major-requirements](https://www.biology.columbia.edu/pages/biology-major-requirements)

**Chemistry**
All majors must take chemistry through organic including labs. One of the following three groups of chemistry courses is required:

**Option 1:**
- CHEM UN1403  GENERAL CHEMISTRY I-LECTURES
- CHEM UN1404  GENERAL CHEMISTRY I-LABS
- CHEM UN1500  GENERAL CHEMISTRY LAB-LAB
- CHEM UN2443  ORGANIC CHEMISTRY I-LECTURES
- CHEM UN1501  GENERAL CHEMISTRY LAB-LAB
- CHEM UN2444  ORGANIC CHEMISTRY I-LABS
- CHEM UN2493  ORGANIC CHEM.LAB I TECHNIQUES
- CHEM UN2494  ORGANIC CHEM. LAB II SYNTHESIS

**Option 2:**
For students who qualify for intensive chemistry
- CHEM UN1604  2ND TERM GEN CHEM (INTENSIVE)
- CHEM UN1507  INTENSIVE GENERAL CHEMISTRY-LAB
- CHEM UN2444  ORGANIC CHEMISTRY II-LECTURES
- CHEM UN2443  ORGANIC CHEMISTRY I-LAB-LAB
- CHEM UN2495  ORGANIC CHEM. LABORATORY I
- CHEM UN2496  ORGANIC CHEM. LABORATORY II

**Option 3:**
For students who qualify for first year organic chemistry
- CHEM UN1507  INTENSIVE GENERAL CHEMISTRY-LAB
- CHEM UN2045  INTENSIVE ORGANIC CHEMISTRY
- CHEM UN2046  and INTENSIVE ORG CHEM-FOR 1ST YEAR
- CHEM UN2495  ORGANIC CHEM. LABORATORY I
- CHEM UN2496  and ORGANIC CHEM. LABORATORY II
- CHEM UN2545  INTENSIVE ORGANIC CHEM LAB

**Physics**
Students must take two terms of physics including the accompanying labs. The usual choices are PHYS UN1201-PHYS UN1202 GENERAL PHYSICS I and PHYS UN1291-PHYS UN1292 GENERAL PHYSICS II LABORATORY. Higher-level physics sequences are also acceptable. The 1400-level sequence is recommended for students who plan to take three terms of physics.

**Mathematics**
Two semesters of calculus or honors mathematics are required. Students may substitute one semester of statistics for one semester of calculus with an adviser’s permission. For students with AP credit, completion of MATH UN1102 CALCULUS II, MATH UN1201 CALCULUS III, or MATH UN1207 HONORS MATHEMATICS A is sufficient. However, students with AP credit are encouraged to take additional courses in mathematics or statistics at Columbia.


**Major in Biochemistry**
The required basic courses for the biochemistry major are chemistry through organic, including laboratory, and one year each of physical chemistry, physics, calculus, biology, and biochemistry/molecular biology.

The required additional courses are three lecture courses chosen from mathematics, chemistry, and biology, and two upper-level laboratory courses.

For more details, see the Chemistry section in this Bulletin. For additional information visit the Department of Biological Sciences website: [http://biology.columbia.edu/pages/biochemistry-major-requirements](http://biology.columbia.edu/pages/biochemistry-major-requirements).

**Major in Biophysics**
The requirements for the biophysics major are as follows:

One year of introductory biology:
- BIOL UN2005  INTRO BIO I: BIOCHEM,GEN,MOLEC
- BIOL UN2006  and INTRO BIO II:CELL BIODEV/PHYS

Select at least one of the following laboratory courses:
- BIOL UN3052  PROJECT LAB-MOLEULAR GENETICS
- BIOL UN3058  or BIOL UN3050  PROJECT LAB IN MICROBIOLOGY
- BIOL GU4501  INDEP BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH
- BIOL GU4512  Biochemistry I - Structure & Metabolism
- BIOL UN3004  Molecular Biology
- BIOL UN3005  or BIOL UN3300  Neurobiology

Select one of the following options:
- **Option 1 - Neurobiology:**
  - BIOL UN3004  NEUROBIO I:CELLULAR # MOLECULAR
  - BIOL UN3005  NEUROBIO II: DEVPT # SYSTEMS
- **Option 2 - Developmental Biology:**
  - BIOL UN3022  DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY

Select one of the following sequences to be completed at the end of sophomore year:
Major in Neuroscience and Behavior

In addition to one year of college general chemistry, eleven courses are required to complete the major in neuroscience and behavior—six in biology and five in psychology.

NOTE: For students entering in Fall 2024 or later, two biology elective courses will be required. For students entering prior to Fall 2024, one biology elective course will be required.

For more details, see the Psychology section in this Bulletin or visit http://biology.columbia.edu/pages/neuroscience-and-behavior-major-requirements.

CHEMISTRY COURSES

One year of college chemistry is required prior to taking Introductory Biology.

BIOLOGY COURSES

One year of introductory biology.

BIOL UN2005 - BIOL UN2006
INTRO BIO I: BIOCHEM, GEN, MOLEC and INTRO BIO II: CELL, BIO, DEV/PHYS

One year of Neurobiology

BIOL UN3004 - BIOL UN3005
NEUROBIO I: CELLULAR # MOLECULAR and NEUROBIO II: DEVPT # SYSTEMS

Two additional 3000 or 4000 level biology lecture courses from the following:

BIOL UN3006 PHYSIOLOGY
BIOL UN3019 Brain Evolution
BIOL UN3022 DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY
BIOL UN3025 NEUROGENETICS
BIOL UN3031 GENETICS

Select any two physics courses at the 3000-level or above, chosen in consultation with the adviser.

Calculus through MATH UN1202 or MATH UN1208

MATH UN3027 Ordinary Differential Equations

CHEM UN1403 GENERAL CHEMISTRY I-LECTURES

CHEM UN1404 GENERAL CHEMISTRY II-LECTURES

Select one additional course at the 3000- or 4000-level, including

BIOC GU4324, BIOL GU4323, and BIOL GU4324, in either physics or biology.

For more details, see the Physics section in this Bulletin or visit the Department of Biological Sciences website: http://biology.columbia.edu/pages/biophysics-major-requirements.

Biological Sciences
PSYC UN2220 COGNITION: MEMORY AND STRESS
PSYC W2225 Attention and Perception
PSYC W2230 Perception and Decision Processes
PSYC UN2235 THINKING AND DECISION MAKING
or PSYC S2235Q Thinking and Decision Making
PSYC UN2250 Evolution of Cognition
PSYC UN2280 Developmental Psychology
PSYC UN2420 ANIMAL BEHAVIOR
PSYC UN2440 Language and the Brain
PSYC UN2450 BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE
or PSYC S2450Q Behavioral Neuroscience
PSYC UN2460 DRUGS AND BEHAVIOR
PSYC UN2470 Fundamentals of Human Neuropsychology
PSYC UN2480 The Developing Brain
PSYC UN2481 Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience
PSYC S2490D Evolution of Cognition, Animal Communication, # Language
or PSYC GU4450 The Evolution of Intelligence & Consciousness (Seminar)
PSYC UN3265 Auditory Perception (Seminar)
PSYC UN3270 COMPUT APPROX HUMAN VISION
PSYC UN3280 Seminar in Infant Development
or PSYC S3280D Seminar in Infant Development
PSYC S3285D The Psychology of Disaster Preparedness
PSYC UN3290 Self: A Cognitive Exploration (Seminar)
PSYC GU4202 Theories of Change in Human Development
PSYC GU4222 The Cognitive Neuroscience of Aging (Seminar)
PSYC GU4223 MEMORY EXEC FUNCTION (Seminar)
PSYC GU4224 Consciousness and Cognitive Science
PSYC GU4225 CONSCIOUSNESS ATTENTION (Seminar)
PSYC GU4229 ATTENTION PERCEPTION (Seminar)
PSYC GU4232 Production and Perception of Language
PSYC GU4235 SPECIAL TOPICS IN VISION
PSYC GU4236 Machine Intelligence
PSYC GU4239 COG NEURO NARRATIVE FILM
PSYC GU4242 Evolution of Language (Seminar)
PSYC GU4244 LANGUAGE AND MIND
PSYC GU4250 Evolution of Intelligence, Cognition, and Language (Seminar)
PSYC GU4265 AUditory perception
PSYC GU4270 COGNITIVE PROCESSES
PSYC G4272 Advanced Seminar in Language Development
PSYC GU4280 CORE KNOWLEDGE
PSYC GU4281 The Psychology of Curiosity
PSYC GU4282 The Neurobiology and Psychology of Play
PSYC G4285 Multidisciplinary Approaches to Human Decision Making (Seminar)
PSYC GU4287 DECISION ARCHITECTURE
PSYC GU4289 THE GAMES PEOPLE PLAY PSYCH OF STRAT DEC
PSYC S3410Q Seminar in Emotion
PSYC W3435 Neurobiology of Reproductive Behavior (Seminar)
PSYC UN3445 THE BRAIN AND MEMORY
PSYC UN3450 Evolution of Intelligence, Animal Communication, # Language
or PSYC GU4450 The Evolution of Intelligence & Consciousness (Seminar)
PSYC UN3481 CRITICAL PERIODS IN BRAIN
PSYC W3484 Life Span Development: Theory and Methods
PSYC UN3496 NEUROSCIENCE AND SOCIETY
or PSYC S3490Q
PSYC W4415 Methods and Issues in Cognitive Neuroscience (Seminar)
PSYC GU4420 Animal Cognition (Seminar)
PSYC GU4430 Learning and the Brain (Seminar)
PSYC GU4435 NON-MNEMONIC FUNCTION OF MEMORY SYSTEMS
PSYC GU4440 TOPICS NEUROBIOLOGY BEHAVIOR
or PSYC S4440Q
PSYC GU4460 Cognitive Neuroscience and the Media (Seminar)
PSYC GU4470 PSYCH BIOLOGY OF LANGUAGE
PSYC GU4480 PSYCHOBIOLOGY OF INFANT DEVELOPMENT
PSYC GU4482 Neural Plasticity
PSYC G4485 Affective Neuroscience
PSYC GU4486 Developmental and Affective Neuroscience (Seminar)
PSYC GU4490 Inheritance (Seminar)
PSYC G4492 Psychology of Stress
PSYC G4493 Stress and the Brain
PSYC G4495 Ethics, Genetics, and the Brain
PSYC G4496 Behavioral Neuroimmunology
PSYC G4498 BEHAVIORAL EPGENETICS
PSYC S3610D The Psychology of Stereotyping & Prejudice
PSYC UN3615 Children at Risk (Lecture)
PSYC UN3620 SEM DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOPATHOLOGY
PSYC UN3623 TOPICS IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY
PSYC UN3624 Adolescent Mental Health: Causes, Correlates, Consequences
PSYC UN3625 CLINICAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGY
or PSYC S3625Q Clinical Neuropsychology Seminar
PSYC UN3655 Field Experimentation Methods for Social Psychology
PSYC UN3661 Happiness Studies Seminar
PSYC UN3671 Motivation Science
PSYC UN3680 SOCIAL COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE
or GU4685
PSYC G4627 Psychology of Stress
PSYC G4630 ADVANCED SEMINAR IN PSYCHOLOGY
PSYC G4635 The Unconscious Mind (Seminar)
The requirements for the concentration in biology are as follows:

- **A project laboratory and one year of physics, including laboratory; see biology major for options.**
- **One year of college-level mathematics (ordinarily this should be calculus); see biology major for options.**


### Fall 2023

- **BIOL UN1360** First Year Seminar in Biology
- **BIOL UN1908** First Intro Bio I: Biochem,Gen,Molec
- **BIOL UN2005** INTRO BIO I: BIOCHEM,GEN,MOLEC
- **BIOL UN2401** CONTEMPORARY BIOLOGY I
- **BIOL UN2501** CONTEMPORARY BIOLOGY LAB
- **BIOL UN3004** NEUROBIO I:CELLULAR # MOLECULAR
- **BIOL UN3022** DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY
- **BIOL UN3025** NEUROGENETICS
- **BIOL UN3040**
- **BIOL UN3041** CELL BIOLOGY
- **BIOL UN3073** CELLULAR/MOLECULAR IMMUNOLOGY
- **BIOL UN3300** Biochemistry
- **BIOL UN3320** Regulation of Behaviors for Survival
- **BIOL UN3404** The Global Threat of Antimicrobial Resistance
- **BIOL UN3500** INDEP BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH
- **BIOL UN3560** EVOL IN THE AGE OF GENOMICS
- **BIOL GU4034** BIOTECHNOLOGY
- **BIOL GU4036** Transformative Concepts in Systems Biology
- **BIOL GU4088** Seminar in Neurobiochemistry and Neurological Diseases
- **BIOL GU4260** PROTEOMICS LABORATORY
- **BIOL GU4300** DRUGS AND DISEASE
- **BIOL GU4323** Biophysical Chemistry I
- **BIOL GU4501** Biochemistry I - Structure & Metabolism

### Spring 2024

- **BIOL UN1004** Foundations of Biology
- **BIOL UN2006** INTRO BIO II:CELL BIODEV/PHYS
- **BIOL UN2402** CONTMP BIO II:CELL BIODEV/PHYS
- **BIOL UN2501** CONTEMPORARY BIOLOGY LAB
- **BIOL UN3005** NEUROBIO II: DEVPT # SYSTEMS
- **BIOL UN3019** Brain Evolution
- **BIOL UN3031** GENETICS
- **BIOL UN3052** PROJECT LAB-MOLECULAR GENETICS
- **BIOL UN3300** Biochemistry
- **BIOL UN3500** INDEP BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH
- **BIOL UN3995** TOPICS IN BIOLOGY
- **BIOL GU4075** BIOLOGY AT PHYSICAL EXTREMES
- **BIOL GU4080** ANCIENT AND MODERN RNA WORLDS
- **BIOL GU4305** SEMINAR IN BIOTECHNOLOGY
- **BIOL GU4310** INTENSIVE LAB IN BIOTECHNOLOGY
- **CHEM GU4324** BIOPHYSICAL CHEMISTRY II
- **BIOL GU4512** Molecular Biology
- **BIOL GU4551** A Structural View of Biology

### Concentration in Biology

Students who wish to concentrate in biology must design their programs in advance with the director of undergraduate studies or a departmental adviser.

The requirement for the concentration is 22 points in biology or biology major-requirements.

A project laboratory and BIOL UN2501 CONTEMPORARY BIOLOGY LAB may not both be counted toward the 22-point total. See the biology major requirements for additional information.

The requirements for the concentration in biology are as follows:

- **BIOL UN2005** INTRO BIO I: BIOCHEM,GEN,MOLEC
- **BIOL UN2006** INTRO BIO II:CELL BIODEV/PHYS

Select at least one of the following core courses:

- **BIOL UN3022** DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY
- **BIOL UN3031** GENETICS
- **BIOL UN3041** CELL BIOLOGY
- **BIOL GU4501** Biochemistry I - Structure & Metabolism
- **BIOL GU4512** Molecular Biology

Plus additional biology elective courses (see electives listed under biology major) to reach a total of 22 points in biology courses.

Beginning Fall 2018, no biology lab is required for the concentration. All other requirements remain the same, including enough electives to reach at least 22 points. Either UN2501 or a five-point lab course, but not both, may count towards the 22 point total.
All Courses

BIOL UN1002 Theory and Practice of Science: Biology. 4 points. 
CC/GS: Partial Fulfillment of Science Requirement

Prerequisites: either BIOL UN1015 or AP biology, or the instructor’s permission.

Lecture and recitation. By analysis and example from the primary literature of evolution and genetics, examines how scientific theories are invented and how they come to be accepted, verified, and in some cases rejected. Papers begin with Darwin and Mendel and end with Watson. Ordinarily does not fulfill biology major or concentration requirements. Normally may not be taken for credit by any student who has previously completed any biology course numbered 2000 or above. BIOL UN1015 should be taken first then BIOL UN1002 for non-science majors.

BIOL UN1004 Foundations of Biology. 2.00 points.

General Chemistry I is a pre-requisite; General Chemistry II is a pre/co-requisite. In this course, we will introduce basic terminology, important concepts, and basic problem-solving skills in order to prepare biology and pre-health students for the challenging Biology courses they will take at Columbia. We will do a deep dive into a small number of topics and use these as access points to teaching skills that will aid students in future STEM courses. Classes will include time for problem solving. Recitations will involve problem solving and student presentations of solutions to problems.

Spring 2024: BIOL UN1004

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<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Section/Call Number</th>
<th>Times/Location</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<td>Mary Ann Price 2.00</td>
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BIOL UN1130 GENES AND DEVELOPMENT. 3.00 points.

CC/GS: Partial Fulfillment of Science Requirement

Prerequisites: one year of high school or college biology.

Prerequisites: one year of high school or college biology. This course covers selected topics in genetics and developmental biology, with special emphasis on issues that are relevant to contemporary society. Lectures and readings will cover the basic principles of genetics, how genes are expressed and regulated, the role of genes in normal development, and how alterations in genes lead to abnormal development and disease. We will also examine how genes can be manipulated in the laboratory, and look at the contributions of these manipulations to basic science and medicine, as well as some practical applications of these technologies. Interspersed student-run workshops will allow students to research and discuss the ethical and societal impacts of specific topics (e.g. in vitro fertilization, uses and misuses of genetic information, genetically modified organisms, steroid use, and cloning). SCE and TC students may register for this course, but they must first obtain the written permission of the instructor, by filling out a paper Registration Adjustment Form (Add/Drop Form). The form can be downloaded at the URL below, but must be signed by the instructor and returned to the office of the registrar. http://registrar.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/reg-adjustment.pdf

BIOL UN1201 Engineered Mouse Models and Identifying Phenotypes In Vivo. 1.50 point.

This undergraduate lecture course will introduce how transgenic and mutan mouse models are generated and their utility in defining the functional roles of genes in vivo. Classically, the function of a gene is tested in vivo by either overexpressing or inactivating its expression, leading to a gain-of-function or loss-of-function phenotype from which is inferred a gene’s normal role in homeostasis. Here we will explore the classic strategies for the generation of transgenic and knockout mice, comparing and contrasting their individual strengths and weaknesses, while exploring the phenotypes that have resulted from these changes in gene expression. Using a subset of primary papers, students will be introduced to research analysis to become more versed in the layers of experimental design needed to identify a gene’s function in vivo. The theoretical timing and the strategy needed to design such experiments with these transgenic and mutant mouse models, and the power of stem cell experiments will be discussed. In addition, to develop critical and additional analytical skills, students will become versed in basic tissue histology and immunohistochemistry, using processed paraffin-embedded mouse tissues from wild-type and engineered mutant mouse lines. Students will learn how to recognize numerous, normal adult tissues with light microscopy and to identify proliferative zones vs. fully differentiated layers within each. It addition, they will analyze the development of mid-to-late gestational embryos in serial sections, to underscore the coordinated transformation of tissues required for normal embryonic development. Finally, serial sections from well-defined mutant mouse models will used to identify and characterize abnormal phenotypes resulting from the knock-out of genes encoding cell cycle regulators or tumor suppressors. Live animal handling or experimentation is not a component of this course.

BIOL UN1360 Science and Society. 3.00 points.

This course, which has been given at another institution for the past five years, uses a seminar discussion format to examine the relationship between science and society from numerous perspectives, using examples from many fields of science, mostly biology and medicine, including the Covid-19 pandemic. We welcome undergraduates from all classes who are concentrating in any field of sciences, humanities, or the arts; there are no prerequisites, other than an interest in how the scientific enterprise works. The course addresses a wide array of topics: why do people choose a scientific career; why do governments and other funders support scientific work; how does science fail; why is there widespread skepticism about science; how is it represented in the arts; how are results disseminated, evaluated, and legally protected; and many other subjects. Assignments—mainly short articles (from newspapers and journals) and book chapters, but also a few films and novels—will be provided for each class, and every student will undertake a term project of their own choosing, after consultations with the instructor.

Fall 2024: BIOL UN1360

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<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
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<td>W 4:10pm - 6:40pm</td>
<td>Ellie Siddens</td>
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<tr>
<th>Instructor</th>
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<tr>
<td>Harold Varmus</td>
<td>3.00</td>
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</table>
BIOL UN1440 DNA Diversity and You. **3.00 points.**

This seminar focuses on the biochemistry, biology, and sociology of DNA and its use and potential for misuse. Even before the discovery of the human genome, the DNA that is the lattice of each human being has been thought to be static and determinative. More recently, with advances in sequencing that DNA, the emerging picture is much more complex. Even so, deeply held beliefs about being solely “my DNA” have persisted affecting our entire species. Students in this seminar are expected to critically discuss and examine the ethical and societal impacts of several topics related to DNA (e.g., artificial reproductive techniques, eugenics, bodily autonomy, definitions and treatment of diseases, neuroscience, epigenetics and the microbiome), as well as the underlying biology and biochemistry of DNA. Human identity and its relationship to DNA is examined using an interdisciplinary framework of perspectives, including those originating from biology, genetics, medicine, public health, psychiatry, religion, and the law. Students are expected to draw from their own experiences as an individual in reflection through the readings to complete the written coursework and participate each week in class discussion. This seminar also allows for expression in other modalities (e.g., visual or aural), in a two-part final class project consisting of a media component in addition to a final written assignment.

BIOL UN1908 First Year Seminar in Biology. **1.00 point.**

If you are interested in biology, come hear Columbia University professors discuss their biology-related research. Find out how the body works, the latest therapies for disease and maybe even find a lab to do research in. http://www.columbia.edu/cu/biology/courses/UN1908/index.htm

Fall 2024: BIOL UN1908

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<th>Course Number</th>
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<td>001/10323</td>
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</table>

BIOL UN2005 INTRO BIO I: BIOCHEM,GEN,MOLEC. **4.00 points.**

Prerequisites: BIOL UN2005, or the instructor's permission.

Prerequisites: BIOL UN2005, or the instructor's permission. Lecture and recitation. Recommended second term of biology for majors in biology and related majors, and for premedical students. Cellular biology and development; physiology of cells and organisms. SPS, Barnard, and TC students may register for this course, but they must first obtain the written permission of the instructor, by filling out a paper Registration Adjustment Form (Add/Drop form). The form can be downloaded at the URL below, but must be signed by the instructor and returned to the office of the registrar. http://registrar.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/reg-adjustment.pdf. Students must register for a recitation section BIOL UN2016. Course website: https://biology.columbia.edu/content/intro-bio

Fall 2024: BIOL UN2005

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<td>BIOL 2005</td>
<td>001/10393</td>
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<td>Michelle Atten, Marko Jovanovic</td>
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<td>Michelle Atten, Marko Jovanovic</td>
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BIOL UN2006 INTRO BIO II:CELL BIO,DEV/PHYS. **4.00 points.**

Prerequisites: EEBB UN2001 or BIOL UN2005, or the instructor's permission.

Prerequisites: BIOL UN2005, or the instructors permission. Lecture and recitation. Recommended second term of biology for majors in biology and related majors, and for premedical students. Cellular biology and development; physiology of cells and organisms. SPS, Barnard, and TC students may register for this course, but they must first obtain the written permission of the instructor, by filling out a paper Registration Adjustment Form (Add/Drop form). The form can be downloaded at the URL below, but must be signed by the instructor and returned to the office of the registrar. http://registrar.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/reg-adjustment.pdf.

Fall 2024: BIOL UN2006

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<td>Alice Heicklen</td>
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</table>

BIOL UN2015 INTRO BIO I: BIOCHEM,GEN,MOLEC. **0.00 points.**

Lecture and recitation. Recommended as the introductory biology course for biology and related majors, and for premedical students. Fundamental principles of biochemistry, molecular biology, and genetics. SPS, Barnard, and TC students may register for this course, but they must first obtain the written permission of the instructor, by filling out a paper Registration Adjustment Form (Add/Drop form). The form can be downloaded at the URL below, but must be signed by the instructor and returned to the office of the registrar. http://registrar.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/reg-adjustment.pdf.

Fall 2024: BIOL UN2015

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Biological Sciences

BIOL UN2016 INTRO BIO II: CELL BIO, DEV/PHYS. 0.00 points.
Prerequisites: Prerequisites: Course does not fulfill Biology major requirements or premedical requirements. Enrollment in laboratory limited to 16 students per section.
Corequisites: BIOL UN2006
Prerequisites: Prerequisites: Course does not fulfill Biology major requirements or premedical requirements. Enrollment in laboratory limited to 16 students per section. Corequisites: BIOL UN2006
Prerequisites: Course does not fulfill Biology major requirements or premedical requirements. Enrollment in laboratory limited to 16 students per section. Exploration of the major discoveries and ideas that have revolutionized the way we view organisms and understand life. The basic concepts of cell biology, anatomy and physiology, genetics, evolution, and ecology will be traced from seminal discoveries to the modern era. The laboratory will develop these concepts and analyze biological diversity through a combined experimental and observational approach.

BIOL UN2300 Interpreting Scientific Evidence. 3.00 points.
This class focuses on how we gather reliable scientific evidence about human biology and public health. The aim is to help students better interpret and evaluate the scientific evidence that they will encounter throughout their lifetime, in primary papers but also as presented in news, advertisement, and politics. To these ends, students will be introduced to basic definitions and concepts in statistics and epidemiology, including point estimates and measures of uncertainty, p-values, error rates, association and causation, different study designs, and selection bias. Readings will draw from a textbook as well as the primary literature. The second half of the course will turn to dissecting the representation and misrepresentation of scientific evidence presented in different venues. It will draw primarily from the textbook “Calling Bullshit” and include discussions of timely examples from the news.

BIOL UN2401 CONTEMPORARY BIOLOGY I. 3.00 points.
Prerequisites: a course in college chemistry or the written permission of either the instructor or the premedical adviser.
Prerequisites: one year of college chemistry or the written permission of either the instructor or the premedical adviser is required. Recommended as the introductory biology course for science majors who have completed a year of college chemistry and premedical students. The fundamental principles of biochemistry, molecular biology, and genetics. Website: http://www.columbia.edu/cu/biology/courses/c2005/index.html. SPS and TC students may register for this course, but they must first obtain the written permission of the instructor, by filling out a paper Registration Adjustment Form (Add/Drop form). The form can be downloaded at the URL below, but must be signed by the instructor and returned to the office of the registrar. registrar. http://registrar.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/reg-adjustment.pdf
BIOL UN2501 CONTEMPORARY BIOLOGY LAB. 3.00 points.
Enrollment per section limited to 28. Lab Fee: $150.
Fee: Lab Fee - 150.00

Prerequisites: Strongly recommended prerequisite or corequisite: BIOL UN2005 or BIOL UN2401.
Prerequisite or corequisite: BIOL UN2005 or BIOL UN2401. Contemporary Biology Lab is designed to provide students with hands-on exploration of fundamental and contemporary biological tools and concepts. Activities include in depth study of mammalian anatomy and physiology through dissection and histology, as well as a series of experiments in genetics and molecular biology, with emphasis on data analysis and experimental technique.

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<th>Course</th>
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<td>Ava Brent</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 2501</td>
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<td>Joshua Abrams</td>
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<td>BIOL 2501</td>
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<td>Joshua Abrams</td>
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BIOL UN2502 Foundations for Lab Biology. 3.00 points.
Due to COVID-19 related restrictions on in-person laboratory work, this course acts as a replacement for BIOL UN2501. This course will act as a virtual introduction to the practice of contemporary biology, with an emphasis on common laboratory methods, online tools, statistical analysis, styles of scientific reasoning, and science communication. Students will be expected to watch a weekly lecture, either in-person or via recording. Lab activities are designed to be highly interactive and collaborative to reflect the realities of biological research. Small groups of students will work together on in-class activities, as well as on a long-term student-designed biological research project.

BIOL UN2700 Past and future of the human genome. 3 points.
CC/PS: Partial Fulfillment of Science Requirement

We can now determine the genetic makeup of any person in a matter of days and at a cost already within reach for many millions of people. For the past few years a movement has emerged to provide detailed genetic information directly to ordinary people, in some cases with the explicit aim of helping prospective parents to "eliminate preventable genetic disease" or, as one newspaper put it, to promote "genetically flawless babies."

But our technical capacity to both interrogate and manipulate the human genome has raced far ahead of serious consideration of the societal implications of doing so. This course will provide students with the background necessary to understand what has and will be done with the human genome and ultimately to help society formulate appropriate policies for wise stewardship of the human genome.

To help illustrate the information available in the human genome and how it may influence individuals’ lives, the instructors’ will share and discuss their own and other public genomes in ways both molecular and personal.

BIOL UN3004 NEUROBIO I:CELLULAR # MOLECULR. 4.00 points.
Prerequisites: one year of biology; a course in physics is highly recommended. Lecture and recitation. This is an advanced course intended for majors providing an in depth survey of the cellular and molecular aspects of nerve cell function. Topics include: the cell biology and biochemistry of neurons, ionic and molecular basis of electrical signals, synaptic transmission and its modulation, function of sensory receptors. Although not required, it is intended to be followed by Neurobiology II (see below). The recitation meets once per week in smaller groups and emphasizes readings from the primary literature.
BIOL UN3005 NEUROBIO II: DEVPT # SYSTEMS. 4.00 points.
Prerequisites: BIOL UN3004, one year of biology, or the instructor’s permission.
Prerequisites: BIOL UN3004, one year of biology, or the instructors permission. This course is the capstone course for the Neurobiology and Behavior undergraduate major at Columbia University and will be taught by the faculty of the Kavli Institute of Brain Science: http://www.kavli.columbia.edu/ Science: http://www.kavli.columbia.edu/.
It is designed for advanced undergraduate and graduate students.
Knowledge of Cellular Neuroscience (how an action potential is generated and how a synapse works) will be assumed. It is strongly recommended that students take BIOL UN3004 Neurobiology I: Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience, or a similar course, before enrolling in BIOL UN3005. Students unsure about their backgrounds should check a representative syllabus of BIOL UN3004 on the BIOL UN3004 website (http://www.columbia.edu/cu/biology/courses/w3004/). Website for BIOL UN3005: http://www.columbia.edu/cu/biology/courses/w3005/

BIOL UN3006 PHYSIOLOGY. 3.00 points.
Prerequisites: (BIOL UN2005 and BIOL UN2006) or (BIOL UN2401 and BIOL UN2402) or the instructor’s permission.
In this primarily human physiology course, we will discuss how the major organ systems function, with an emphasis on cellular, molecular, and physical mechanisms. Organ systems covered include musculoskeletal, cardiovascular, respiratory, urinary, and digestive systems. Traditional lectures focus primarily on the normal functioning of organ systems, while pathophysiology is introduced through five case studies during the semester. After this course, students should be able to 1) describe the basic functioning of the major organ systems and how they contribute to homeostasis and health, 2) apply key concepts in physics and chemistry, such as flow, pressure/volume relationships, and mass action, to physiological systems, 3) use key concepts in molecular and cell biology to gain a mechanistic understanding of physiological processes, explain how organ systems work in an integrated way to achieve homeostasis and health, and 4) predict changes in organ function upon drug treatment, genetic mutation, or disease conditions.

BIOL UN3008 The Cellular Physiology of Disease. 3 points.
Prerequisites: one 3000-level course in Cell Biology or Biochemistry, or the instructor’s permission.
This course will present a quantitative description of the cellular physiology of excitable cells (mostly nerve and muscle). While the course will focus on examining basic mechanisms in cell physiology, there will be a thread of discussion of disease mechanisms throughout. The end of each lecture will include a discussion of the molecular mechanisms of selected diseases that relate to the topics covered in the lecture. The course will consist of two lectures per week. This course will be of interest to advanced (3000-4000 level) undergraduates that aim to pursue careers in medicine as well as those that will pursue careers in biomedical research. This course will also be of interest to graduate students desiring an introduction to the cellular physiology of nerve and muscle.

BIOL UN3014 Neurobiology I Recitation. 0.00 points.
Discussion/recitation section for BIOL UN3004 Neurobiology I

BIOL UN3015 Neurobiology II Recitation. 0.00 points.
Discussion/recitation section for BIOL UN3005 Neurobiology II

BIOL UN3016 Neurobiology I Recitation. 0.00 points.
Discussion/recitation section for BIOL UN3004 Neurobiology I section 002
BIOL UN3019 Brain Evolution. 3.00 points.

If an engineer were to build “the brain”, they would not be able to reproduce any of the brains that exist on Earth. Our brains were not designed to be perfect, but are a result of millions of years of evolution and adaptation. The goal of this course is to provide an overview of brain evolution, ranging from the evolution of the first neurons to the origin of the human brain. Specifically, the course will focus on recent insights emerging from studies of development, gene expression, and neural circuit architecture. The evolutionary perspective on commonly used terms, such as “neuron” and “brain”, and general principles of brain organization and function emerging from comparative studies will be discussed.

Spring 2024: BIOL UN3019

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<td>Maria Tosches</td>
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BIOL UN3022 DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY. 3.00 points.

CC/GS: Partial Fulfillment of Science Requirement

Prerequisites: BIOL UN2005 and BIOL UN2006 or equivalent.

Prerequisites: BIOL UN2005 and BIOL UN2006 or equivalent. Come discover how the union of egg and sperm triggers the complex cellular interactions that specify the diverse variety of cells present in multicellular organisms. Cellular and molecular aspects of sex determination, gametogenesis, genomic imprinting, X-chromosome inactivation, telomerase as the biological clock, stem cells, cloning, the pill and cell interactions will be explored, with an emphasis on humans. Original research articles will be discussed to further examine current research in developmental biology. SPS and TC students may register for this course, but they must first obtain the written permission of the instructor, by filling out a paper Registration Adjustment Form (Add/Drop form). The form can be downloaded at the URL below, but must be signed by the instructor and returned to the office of the registrar. http://registrar.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/reg-adjustment.pdf

Fall 2024: BIOL UN3022

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BIOL UN3025 NEUROGENETICS. 3.00 points.

Prerequisites: (BIOL UN2005 and BIOL UN2006)

Prerequisites: (BIOL UN2005 and BIOL UN2006) This course provides an introduction to Neurogenetics, which studies the role of genetics in the development and function of the nervous system (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neurogenetics). The course will be focused on teaching classic and contemporary concepts in genetics and neuroscience, rather than cataloguing mere facts. The course will emphasize the discovery processes, historical figures involved in these processes and methodologies of discovery. Primary research papers will be discussed in detail. A central organizational theme of the course is the presence of a common thread and narrative throughout the course. The common thread is an invertebrate model system, the roundworm Caenorhabditis elegans, which serves as a paradigm to show how simple genetic model systems have informed our view on the genetics of nervous system development and function. The ultimate goal of this course is to gain an understanding of the underlying principles of how the nervous system of one specific animal species forms, from beginning to end. The course is intended for neuroscience-inclined students (e.g. neuroscience majors) who want to learn about how genetic approaches have informed our understanding of brain development and function and, vice versa, for students with an interest in molecular biology and genetics, who want to learn about key problems in neuroscience and how genetic approaches can address them.

Fall 2024: BIOL UN3025

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<td>Oliver Hobert</td>
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BIOL UN3031 GENETICS. 3.00 points.

Students may receive credit for BIOL W3031 or BIOL C3032, but not both due to overlap in course content.

Prerequisites: BIOL UN2005 and BIOL UN2006 or the equivalent.

Prerequisites: BIOL UN2005 and BIOL UN2006. General genetics course focused on basic principles of transmission genetics and the application of genetic approaches to the study of biological function. Principles will be illustrated using classical and contemporary examples from prokaryote and eukaryote organisms, and the experimental discoveries at their foundation will be featured. Applications will include genetic approaches to studying animal development and human diseases. SPS and TC students must obtain the written permission from the instructor, by filling out a Registration Adjustment Form (Add/Drop form). https://www.registrar.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/reg-adjustment.pdf

Spring 2024: BIOL UN3031

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<th>Course Number</th>
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BIOL UN3034 Biotechnology. 3 points.
CC/GS: Partial Fulfillment of Science Requirement
For upper-level undergraduates.

Prerequisites: genetics or molecular biology.
The course covers techniques currently used to explore and manipulate
gene function and their applications in medicine and the environment.
Part I covers key laboratory manipulations, including DNA cloning,
gene characterization, association of genes with disease, and methods
for studying gene regulation and activities of gene products. Part II
also covers commercial applications, and includes animal cell culture,
production of recombinant proteins, novel diagnostics, high throughput
screening, and environmental biosensors. SCE and TC students may
register for this course, but they must first obtain the written permission
of the instructor, by filling out a paper Registration Adjustment Form
(Add/Drop form). The form can be downloaded at the URL below, but
must be signed by the instructor and returned to the office of the registrar: http://registrar.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/reg-
adjustment.pdf

BIOL UN3041 CELL BIOLOGY. 3.00 points.
CC/GS: Partial Fulfillment of Science Requirement

Prerequisites: one year of biology, normally BIOL UN2005-BIOL UN2006,
or the equivalent.
Prerequisites: one year of biology, normally BIOL UN2005-BIOL UN2006,
or the equivalent. Cell Biology 3041/4041 is an upper-division course that
covers in depth all organelles of cells, how they make up tissues, secrete
substances important for the organism, generate and adapt to their
working environment in the body, move throughout development, and
signal to each other. Because these topics were introduced in the Intro
Course (taught by Mowshowitz and Chasin), this course or its equivalent
is a pre-requisite for W3041/4041. Students for whom this course is
useful include biology, biochem or biomedical engineering majors, those
preparing to apply for medical school or graduate school, and those
doing or planning to start doing research in a biology or biomedical lab. SCE
and TC students may register for this course, but they must first obtain
the written permission of the instructor, by filling out a paper Registration
Adjustment Form (Add/Drop form). The form can be downloaded at the URL below, but
must be signed by the instructor and returned to the office of the registrar. http://registrar.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/reg-
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BIOL UN3050 Project Laboratory In Protein Biochemistry. 5 points.
Prerequisites: one year of biology (UN2005-UN2006) plus one upper-level
course recommended. Enrollment is not restricted as long as total is no
more than 14. Seniors will be given preference in the unlikely event that
restriction is necessary. Students with specific questions should e-mail
the instructor (jfh21@columbia.edu).
This course provides an intensive introduction to professional
biomedical laboratory research. Students conduct a portion of an
ongoing biochemical research project and write-up their results in a
format suitable for publication in a peer-reviewed scientific research
journal. Techniques in molecular biology and protein biochemistry are
used to address a problem in mechanistic biochemistry or molecular
pharmacology. Students are exposed to the full spectrum of techniques
used in contemporary protein biochemistry, including molecular
sequence analysis of genomic databases, molecular cloning and
manipulation of recombinant DNA, protein expression in E. coli, protein
purification, and biophysical characterization (typically including
crystalization for x-ray structure determination). The course emphasizes
the use of critical thinking skills in scientific research while giving
students the opportunity to apply the basic knowledge learned in a
wide variety of biology and chemistry lecture courses to a real research
project. Examples of past projects can be found on the course website:
https://www1.columbia.edu/sec/cu/biology/courses/w3050/class/
index.html (cunix account required to login).

BIOL UN3052 PROJECT LAB-MOLECULAR GENETICS. 5.00 points.
Enrollment limited to approximately 12. Fee: $150.

Prerequisites: one year of introductory biology and the instructor’s
permission.
Multicellular animals contain a diverse array of cell types, yet start from
a single cell. How do cells decide what kind of cell to be? In this lab course,
we will use the tools of molecular biology and genetics to explore this
fascinating question. We will use the nematode Caenorhabditis elegans,
a powerful model organism used in hundreds of research labs. The
course will be divided into three modules: C. elegans genetics, molecular
cloning, and genetic screening. Laboratory techniques will include PCR,
gel electrophoresis, restriction digest, ligation, transformation, RNAi, and
C. elegans maintenance. Students will pursue original projects; emphasis
will be placed on scientific thinking and scientific communication. SPS
and TC students may register for this course, but they must first obtain
the written permission of the instructor, by filling out a paper Registration
Adjustment Form (Add/Drop form). Prerequisites: UN2005/UN2401 and
UN2006/UN2402, or the equivalent at a different institution
BIOL UN3058 PROJECT LAB IN MICROBIOLOGY. 5.00 points.
Lab fee: $150.

Prerequisites: one year of Intro Bio. An introductory biology or chemistry lab is recommended.
Prerequisites: one year of Intro Bio. An introductory biology or chemistry lab is recommended. Bacteria are not just unicellular germs. This lab course will broaden your awareness of the amazing world of microbiology and the diverse capabilities of microbes. The focus will be on bacterial multicellularity, pigment production, and intercellular signaling. Pigment-producing bacteria will be isolated from the wild (i.e. Morningside Campus or your skin), and characterized using standard genetic tools (PCR, DNA gel electrophoresis, transformation, screen) and microbiology techniques (isolation of bacteria and growth of bacterial colonies, media preparation, enrichment techniques for pigments). These techniques will also be applied in the study of bacterial multicellularity and signaling in the standard lab strain Pseudomonas aeruginosa. SCE and TC students may register for this course, but they must first obtain the written permission of the instructor, by filling out a paper Registration Adjustment Form. The form can be downloaded at the URL below, but must be signed by the instructor and returned to the office of the registrar. http://registrar.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/reg-adjustment.pdf

BIOL UN3073 CELLULAR/MOLECULAR IMMUNOLOGY. 3.00 points.
CC/GS: Partial Fulfillment of Science Requirement

Prerequisites: two semesters of a rigorous, molecularly-oriented introductory biology course (such as UN2005 and UN2006), or the instructor's permission.
Prerequisites: two semesters of a rigorous, molecularly-oriented introductory biology course (such as UN2005 and UN2006), or the instructors permission. This course will cover the basic concepts underlying the mechanisms of innate and adaptive immunity, as well as key experimental methods currently used in the field. To keep it real, the course will include clinical correlates in such areas as infectious diseases, autoimmune diseases, cancer immunotherapy and transplantation. Taking this course wont turn you into an immunologist, but it may make you want to become one, as was the case for several students last year. After taking the course, you should be able to read the literature intelligently in this rapidly advancing field. SCE and TC students may register for this course, but they must first obtain the written permission of the instructor, by filling out a paper Registration Adjustment Form (Add/Drop form). The form can be downloaded at the URL below, but must be signed by the instructor and returned to the office of the registrar. http://registrar.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/reg-adjustment.pdf

BIOL UN3190 STEM CELLS: BIOETHICS,APPL. 3.00 points.

BIOL UN3193 STEM CELL BIOL # APPLICATIONS. 3.00 points.
Prerequisites: three semesters of Biology or the instructor's permission.
Prerequisites: three semesters of Biology or the instructors permission. The course examines current knowledge and potential medical applications of pluripotent stem cells (embryonic stem cells and induced pluripotent stem cells), direct conversions between cell types and adult, tissue-specific stem cells (concentrating mainly on hematopoietic and gut stem cells as leading paradigms). A basic lecture format will be supplemented by presentations and discussions of research papers. Recent reviews and research papers, together with extensive instructor notes, will be used in place of a textbook. SCE and TC students may register for this course, but they must first obtain the written permission of the instructor, by filling out a paper Registration Adjustment Form (Add/Drop form). The form can be downloaded at the URL below, but must be signed by the instructor and returned to the office of the registrar. http://registrar.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/reg-adjustment.pdf

BIOL UN3208 Introduction to Evolutionary Biology. 3 points.
Prerequisites: recommended preparation: an introductory course in college biology.
Introduction to principles of general evolutionary theory, both nomological and historical, causes and processes of evolution; phylogenetic evolution; species concept and speciation; adaptation and macroevolution; concepts of phylogeny and classification.

BIOL UN3300 Biochemistry. 3.00 points.
Prerequisites: 1 year of Introductory Biology, 1 year General Chemistry, and 1st semester Organic Chemistry. Biochemistry is the study of the chemical processes within organisms that give rise to the immense complexity of life. This complexity emerges from a highly regulated and coordinated flow of chemical energy from one biomolecule to another. This course serves to familiarize students with the spectrum of biomolecules (carbohydrates, lipids, amino acids, nucleic acids, etc.) as well as the fundamental chemical processes (glycolysis, citric acid cycle, fatty acid metabolism, etc.) that allow life to happen. The course will end with a discussion of diseases that have biochemical etiologies. In particular, this course will employ active learning techniques and critical thinking problem-solving to engage students in answering the question: how is the complexity of life possible? NOTE: While only the 1st semester of Organic Chemistry is listed as a pre-requisite, it is highly recommended that you take all of Organic Chemistry beforehand.

Spring 2024: BIOL UN3300

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Fall 2024: BIOL UN3300

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BIOL UN3310 Virology. 3 points.
Prerequisites: two semesters of a rigorous, molecularly-oriented introductory biology course (such as BIOL UN2005), or the instructor’s permission.

The course will emphasize the common reactions that must be completed by all viruses for successful reproduction within a host cell and survival and spread within a host population. The molecular basis of alternative reproductive cycles, the interactions of viruses with host organisms, and how these lead to disease are presented with examples drawn from a set of representative animal and human viruses.

BIOL UN3320 Regulation of Behaviors for Survival. 4.00 points.
To maximize their survival animals must regulate their behavior in response to external environmental cues and their own internal state. A fundamental goal of neuroscience is to understand how neural circuits in the brain function to influence behavior. The aim of this course is to highlight the neural basis of neuropeptide regulation of innate behaviors that are critical for survival and discuss modern approaches to study the neuronal control of classically studied aspects of behavior. We will explore motor control (escape responses), sensory systems (vision, taste, and olfaction), and survival behaviors (feeding, drinking, mating, and aggression). Focus will be on recent and current research, the diversity of approaches for studying it, and how this knowledge can be applied to solve scientific questions. Students will read primary scientific literature and a significant portion of the course will be presentation and discussion-based.

BIOL 3387 BIOLOGY TEST. 3 points.

BIOL UN3404 The Global Threat of Antimicrobial Resistance. 3.00 points.
Prerequisites: (biol un2005 and biol un2006) or (biol un2401 and biol un2402)
Antimicrobial resistant bacterial infections were estimated to account for 1.27 million deaths worldwide in 2019. The goal of the seminar is to provide an in-depth analysis of this ongoing threat. Discussions will include the molecular mechanisms, epidemiology of transmission and the consequences of antimicrobial resistant infections. It will also cover current efforts to reduce the spread and emergence of these difficult to treat pathogens, both in the community and the healthcare setting.

BIOL UN3500 INDEP BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH. 2.00-4.00 points.
Fee: $150. Students must register for a recitation section, BIOL W3510.
Fee: Lab Fee - 150

Prerequisites: Concurrent with registering for this course, a student must register with the department and provide a written invitation from a mentor; details of this procedure are available at http://www.columbia.edu/cu/biology/courses/w3500/index.htm. Students must register for recitations UN3510 or consult the instructor.
Corequisites: BIOL UN3510

Prerequisites: Concurrent with registering for this course, a student must register with the department and provide a written invitation from a mentor; details of this procedure are available at http://www.columbia.edu/cu/biology/courses/w3500/index.htm. Students must register for recitations UN3510 or consult the instructor.
Corequisites: BIOL UN3510 The course involves independent study, faculty-supervised laboratory projects in contemporary biology.

Prerequisites: Introductory Biology I and II, or the instructors permission.

This course introduces basic concepts in evolutionary biology, from speciation to natural selection. While the lectures incorporate a historical perspective, the main goal of the class is to familiarize students with topics and tools of evolutionary genetics as practiced today, in the era of genomics. Thus, the focus will be on evidence from molecular evolution and genetics and exercises will assume a basic background in genetics. Examples will be drawn from across the tree of life, but with a primary focus on humans.
BIOL UN3700 INDEPENDENT CLINICAL RESEARCH. 2.00-4.00 points.
Prerequisites: concurrent with registering for this course, a student must register with the department, provide a written invitation from a mentor, and submit a research proposal.

BIOL UN3799 MOLECULAR BIOLOGY OF CANCER. 3.00 points.
Prerequisites: three terms of biology (genetics and cell biology recommended).
Prerequisites: three terms of biology (genetics and cell biology recommended). Cancer is one of the most dreaded common diseases. Yet it is also one of the great intellectual challenges in biology today. How does a cell become cancerous? What are the agents that cause this to occur? How do current findings about genes, cells, and organisms ranging from yeast cells to humans inform us about cancer? How do findings about cancer teach us new biological concepts? Over the past few years there have been great inroads into answering these questions which have led to new ways to diagnose and treat cancer. This course will discuss cancer from the point of view of basic biological research. We will cover topics in genetics, molecular and cell biology that are relevant to understanding the differences between normal and cancer cells. These will include tumor viruses, oncoproteins, tumor suppressor genes, cell cycle regulation, programmed cell death and cell senescence. We will also study some current physiological concepts related to cancer including angiogenesis, tumor immunology, cancer stem cells, metastasis and new approaches to treatment that are built on recent discoveries in cancer biology. SPS and TC students may register for this course, but they must first obtain the written permission of the instructor, by filling out a paper Registration Adjustment Form (Add/Drop form). The form can be downloaded at the URL below, but must be signed by the instructor and returned to the office of the registrar. http://registrar.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/reg-adjustment.pdf

BIOL UN3795 (Section 1) Topics in Biology: Crossroads in Bioethics. 1-2 points.
Prerequisites: at least one introductory course in biology or chemistry.
This two credit multidisciplinary and interactive course will focus on contemporary issues in bioethics. Each topic will cover both the underlying science of new biotechnologies and the subsequent bioethical issues that emerge from these technologies. Classroom time will be devoted to student discussions, case presentations, and role playing. Topics include human trafficking, stem cell research, human reproductive cloning, neuroethics, genetic screening, human-animal chimeras, synthetic biology, bioterrorism, and neuroimaging.

BIOL UN3995 TOPICS IN BIOLOGY. 2.00 points.
Enrollment limited to 18.
Prerequisites: Introductory Biology or equivalent.
Prerequisites: Introductory Biology or equivalent. Topics in Biology: Radiographic Anatomy and Select Pathology (Section 007 Fall semester) , Radiographic Anatomy and Selective Pathology is a survey course intended for undergraduate students. This course is not limited to science majors and would be of value to any student that may have an interest in studying the anatomy of the human body. The course is a systematic approach to the study of the human body utilizing medical imaging. We will be studying neuro-anatomy, anatomy of the thorax, abdomen, and pelvis. Vascular and musculoskeletal imaging will be addressed as well. Modalities will include CT, MRI, PET/CT, and Ultrasound. Cross sectional imaging will be supplemented with pathology demonstrated on appropriate cross sectional imaging. The class size will be limited to 15 students. The lecture will be offered Wednesday evenings from 6:10-7:00 pm. This will be a 1 credit course offered only during the fall semesters. Topics in Biology: Crossroads in Bioethics (Section 001 Spring semester) , This two credit multidisciplinary and interactive course will focus on contemporary issues in bioethics and medical ethics. Each topic will cover both the underlying science of new biotechnologies and the subsequent bioethical issues that emerge from these technologies. Each topic will introduce a bioethical principle that will be explored using case studies. Students are expected to prepare for each class based on the assignment so that classroom time will be devoted to discussion, case presentations, and role playing rather than merely lectures. Topics include stem cell research, human reproductive cloning, bioterrorism, neuroethics, genetic screening, medical stem cell tourism, patents and science, forensic science and the interface of science and culture/religion...
BIOL GU4001 ADVANCED GENETIC ANALYSIS. 3.00 points.
CC/GS: Partial Fulfillment of Science Requirement
Enrollment limited to 25.

Prerequisites: for undergraduates: Introductory Genetics (W3031) and the instructor's permission.
Prerequisites: for undergraduates: Introductory Genetics (W3031) and the instructors permission. This seminar course provides a detailed presentation of areas in classical and molecular genetics for advanced undergraduates and beginning graduate students. Topics include transmission genetics, gain and loss of function mutations, genetic redundancy, suppressors, enhancers, epistasis, expression patterns, using transposons, and genome analysis. The course is a mixture of lectures, student presentations, seminar discussions, and readings from the original literature

BIOL GU4002 Macromolecular Structure # Interactions. 4.00 points.
Open to PhD candidates in the biomedical and chemical sciences, and to other qualified graduate, undergraduate, and continuing education students with the instructor's permission.

This course has three interrelated goals: (i) to develop an intuitive understanding of the thermodynamic forces that control the structure of biological macromolecules and the evolution of life, (ii) to learn how to apply that understanding to experimental analyses of macromolecular interactions, and (iii) to master the use of molecular graphics software for understanding and interpreting macromolecular structures and interactions. The lectures develop the essential thermodynamic theory from the ground up, starting from a review of the relevant physical forces (Newton's and Coulomb's Laws) and culminating with an intuitive explanation of how complex biological organisms can evolve spontaneously, in a universe in which all natural processes are driven by increasing randomness or entropy, as specified by the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics. Subsequent lectures elaborate how these thermodynamic principles govern the formation and interaction of macromolecular structures, which represent the physical foundation for the evolution of life, and how the same principles are applied to analyze related experimental data. The problem sets for the course focus on practical applications of these principles to the analysis of data from common experiments used by molecular biologists to characterize macromolecular interactions. Extensive use is made of molecular graphics software throughout the semester, including in the problem sets, based on instruction provided in both the lectures and recitation sections. The course is designed to develop a deep understanding of the physical mechanisms controlling macromolecular interactions while simultaneously empowering students to critically read related literature and rigorously design and analyze related experiments themselves

BIOL GU4004 NEUROBIO I:CELLULAR # MOLECULR. 4.00 points.
Prerequisites: one year of biology; a course in physics is highly recommended. Lecture and recitation. This is an advanced course intended for majors providing an in depth survey of the cellular and molecular aspects of nerve cell function. Topics include the cell biology and biochemistry of neurons, ionic and molecular basis of electrical signals, synaptic transmission and its modulation, function of sensory receptors. Although not required, it is intended to be followed by Neurobiology II (see below). The recitation meets once per week in smaller groups and emphasizes readings from the primary literature

BIOL GU4008 The Cellular Physiology of Disease. 3 points.
Prerequisites: one 3000-level course in Cell Biology or Biochemistry or the instructor's permission.
Corequisites: BIOL GU4009
This course will present a quantitative description of the cellular physiology of excitable cells (mostly nerve and muscle). While the course will focus on examining basic mechanisms in cell physiology, there will be a thread of discussion of disease mechanisms throughout. The end of each lecture will include a discussion of the molecular mechanisms of selected diseases that relate to the topics covered in the lecture. The course will consist of two lectures per week. This course will be of interest to advanced (3000-4000 level) undergraduates that aim to pursue careers in medicine as well as those that will pursue careers in biomedical research. This course will also be of interest to graduate students desiring an introduction to the cellular physiology of nerve and muscle.

BIOL GU4009 Cellular Physiology of Diseases Laboratory. 1 point.
See department for details

BIOL GU4013 ADV SEMINAR IN NEUROBIOLOGY. 3.00 points.
BIOL GU4022 DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY. 3.00 points.
Prerequisites: BIOL C2005-C2006 or equivalent. Come discover how the union of egg and sperm triggers the complex cellular interactions that specify the diverse variety of cells present in multicellular organisms. Cellular and molecular aspects of sex determination, gametogenesis, genomic imprinting, X-chromosome inactivation, telomerase as the biological clock, stem cells, cloning, the pill and cell interactions will be explored, with an emphasis on humans. Original research articles will be discussed to further examine current research in developmental biology. SCE and TC students may register for this course, but they must first obtain the written permission of the instructor, by filling out a paper Registration Adjustment Form (Add/Drop form). The form can be downloaded at the URL below, but must be signed by the instructor and returned to the office of the registrar. http://registrar.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/reg-adjustment.pdf

BIOL GU4031 Genetics. 3 points.
Open to Biotech M.A. students and other graduate students.
Corequisites: Recommended: one term of organic chemistry.
Prerequisites: BIOL UN2005 and BIOL UN2006 or the equivalent. General genetics course focused on basic principles of transmission genetics and the application of genetic approaches to the study of biological function. Principles will be illustrated using classical and contemporary examples from prokaryote and eukaryote organisms, and the experimental discoveries at their foundation will be featured. Applications will include genetic approaches to studying animal development and human diseases. SCE and TC students may register for this course, but they must first obtain the written permission of the instructor, by filling out a paper Registration Adjustment Form (Add/Drop form). The form can be downloaded at the URL below, but must be signed by the instructor and returned to the office of the registrar. http://registrar.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/req-adjustment.pdf
BIOL GU4034 BIOTECHNOLOGY. 3.00 points.
Prerequisites: genetics or molecular biology. The course covers techniques currently used to explore and manipulate gene function and their applications in medicine and the environment. Part I covers key laboratory manipulations, including DNA cloning, gene characterization, association of genes with disease, and methods for studying gene regulation and activities of gene products. Part II covers commercial applications, and includes animal cell culture, production of recombinant proteins, novel diagnostics, high throughput screening, and environmental biosensors.

BIOL GU4035 SEMINAR IN EPIGENETICS. 3.00 points.
Prerequisites: Genetics (3032/4032) or Molecular Biology (3512/4512), and the instructor’s permission.
This is a combined lecture/seminar course designed for advanced undergraduates and graduate students. The focus is on understanding the mechanisms underlying epigenetic phenomena: the heritable inheritance of genetic states without change in DNA sequence. Epigenetic mechanisms play important roles during normal animal development and oncogenesis. It is an area under intensive scientific investigation and the course will focus on recent advances in understanding these phenomena. In each class, students will present and discuss in detail recent papers and background material concerning each individual topic, followed by an introductory lecture on the following week’s topic. This course will emphasize critical analysis of the scientific literature and help students understand how to identify important biological problems and how to address them experimentally.

BIOL GU4036 Transformative Concepts in Systems Biology. 3.00 points.
Systems biology approaches are rapidly transforming the technological and conceptual foundations of research across diverse areas of biomedicine. In this course we will discuss the fundamental developments in systems biology with a focus on two important dimensions: (1) the unique conceptual frameworks that have emerged to study systems-level phenomena and (2) how these approaches are revealing fundamentally new principles that govern the organization and behavior of cellular systems. Although there will be much discussion of technologies and computational approaches, the course will emphasize the conceptual contributions of the field and the big questions that lie ahead. Lectures and discussions of primary literature will enable students to scrutinize research in the field and to internalize systems biology thinking in their own research. To make this a concrete endeavor, the students will develop mini-NIH-style grant proposals that aim to study a fundamental problem/question using systems biology approaches. The students will then convene an in-class NIH-style review panel that will assess the strengths and weaknesses of these proposals. In addition, the students will have the opportunity to defend their proposals in a live presentation to the class. The course is open to graduate students in Biological Sciences. Advanced undergraduates in biological sciences, and other graduate students with background in biology from other disciplines, including physics, chemistry, computer science, and engineering may also attend after consulting with the instructor.

BIOL GU4034 Cell Biology. 3 points.
Prerequisites: one year of biology, normally BIOL C2005-C2006, or the equivalent.
Cell Biology 3041/4041 is an upper-division course that covers in depth all organelles of cells, how they make up tissues, secrete substances important for the organism, generate and adapt to their working environment in the body, move throughout development, and signal to each other. Because these topics were introduced in the Intro Course (taught by Moshowit and Chasin), this course or its equivalent is a pre-requisite for W3041/4041. Students for whom this course is useful include biology, biochem or biomedical engineering majors, those preparing to apply for medical school or graduate school, and those doing or planning to start doing research in a biology or biomedical lab. SCE and TC students may register for this course, but they must first obtain the written permission of the instructor, by filling out a paper Registration Adjustment Form (Add/Drop form). The form can be downloaded at the URL below, but must be signed by the instructor and returned to the office of the registrar. http://registrar.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/reg-adjustment.pdf

BIOL GU4065 Molecular Biology of Disease. 3 points.
Enrollment limited to 30.
Prerequisites: open to advanced undergraduates with the instructor’s permission. Completion of a 3000-level course in at least one of the following, with completion of two or more preferred: genetics, biochemistry, cell biology.
Molecular and cellular basis of infectious diseases and inherited propensities. Mechanisms of disease examined in discussions based on current research papers. Lectures, discussions, and student presentations. Essay required in lieu of final examination.

BIOL GU4070 The Biology and Physics of Single Molecules. 3 points.
CC/GS: Partial Fulfillment of Science Requirement
Prerequisites: calculus, chemistry, physics, one year of biology, or the instructor’s permission.
This course will examine the fundamental mechanisms underlying the behavior of biological molecules, at the single molecule level. The course will cover the methods used to track single molecules: optical tweezers, single molecule AFM, Magnetic tweezers, Optical techniques and Fluorescence energy transfer (FRET) probes. The course will cover the mechanism of action of mechanical motors, such as myosin dynein, kinesin. It will cover the action of DNA binding enzymes such as topoisomerases, helicases, etc. We will also discuss the function of large motors such as the ATP Synthase and the bacterial AAA ATPases. We will discuss the mechanical properties of DNA, RNA, and proteins. The course will consist mainly of reviewing classical experiments in each category, and developing the background physical theories to promote a deep understanding of biological mechanisms at the mesoscopic level.
BIOL GU4075 BIOLOGY AT PHYSICAL EXTREMES. 3.00 points.
Prerequisites: one year each of biology and physics, or the instructor's permission.
Prerequisites: one year each of biology and physics, or the instructor’s permission. This is a combined lecture/seminar course designed for graduate students and advanced undergraduates. The course will cover a series of cases where biological systems take advantage of physical phenomena in counter intuitive and surprising ways to accomplish their functions. In each of these cases, we will discuss different physical mechanisms at work. We will limit our discussions to simple, qualitative arguments. We will also discuss experimental methods enabling the study of these biological systems. Overall, the course will expose students to a wide range of physical concepts involved in biological processes

Spring 2024: BIOL GU4075

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<th>Times/Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 4075</td>
<td>001/14884</td>
<td>Th 2:10pm - 4:00pm</td>
<td>Ozgur Sahin</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>26/30</td>
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1000 Fairchild Life Sciences Bldg

BIOL GU4080 ANCIENT AND MODERN RNA WORLDS. 3.00 points.
Prerequisites: BIOL UN3512
RNA has recently taken center stage with the discovery that RNA molecules sculpt the landscape and information contained within our genomes. Furthermore, some ancient RNA molecules combine the roles of both genotype and phenotype into a single molecule. These multi-tasking RNAs offer a possible solution to the paradox of which came first: DNA or proteins. This seminar explores the link between modern RNA, metabolism, and insights into a prebiotic RNA world that existed some 3.8 billion years ago. Topics include the origin of life, replication, and the origin of the genetic code; conventional, new, and bizarre forms of RNA processing; structure, function and evolution of key RNA molecules, including the ribosome, and RNA therapeutics including vaccines. The format will be weekly seminar discussions with presentations. Readings will be taken from the primary literature, emphasizing seminal and recent literature. Requirements will be student presentations, class participation, and a final paper

Spring 2024: BIOL GU4080

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<td>BIOL 4080</td>
<td>001/10712</td>
<td>W 10:10am - 12:00pm</td>
<td>Laura Landweber</td>
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<td>17/24</td>
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1000 Fairchild Life Sciences Bldg

BIOL GU4082 Theoretical Foundations and Applications of Biophysical Methods. 4 points.
Prerequisites: at least one year of coursework in single-variable calculus and not being freaked-out by multivariable calculus. Physics coursework through a calculus-based treatment of classical mechanics and electromagnetism. One year of general chemistry (either AP Chemistry or a college course). One year of college coursework in molecular/cellular biology and biochemistry equivalent to Biology C2005-2006 at Columbia. Rigorous introduction to the theory underlying biophysical methods, which are illustrated by practical applications to biomedical research. Emphasizes the approach used by physical chemists to understand and analyze the behavior of molecules, while also preparing students to apply these methods in their own research. Course modules cover: (i) statistical analysis of data; (ii) solution thermodynamics; (iii) hydrodynamic methods; (iv) light-scattering methods; and (v) spectroscopic methods, especially fluorescence. Recitations focus on curve-fitting analyses of experimental data.
**BIOL GU4290 BIOLOGICAL MICROSCOPY. 3.00 points.**
Prerequisites: (biol un2005 or biol un2401) or BIOL UN2005 or BIOL UN2401 or equivalent
Prerequisites: (biol un2005 or biol un2401) or BIOL UN2005 or BIOL UN2401 or equivalent
This is an advanced microscopy course aimed at graduates and advanced undergraduate students, who are interested in learning about the foundational principles of microscopy approaches and their applications in life sciences. The course will introduce the fundamentals of optics, light-matter interaction and in-depth view of most commonly used advanced microscopy methods, explore important practical imaging parameters, and also introduce digital images and their analysis.

**BIOL GU4300 DRUGS AND DISEASE. 3.00 points.**
Prerequisites: four semesters of biology with a firm foundation in molecular and cellular biology.
Prerequisites: four semesters of biology with a firm foundation in molecular and cellular biology. Introduces students to the current understanding of human diseases, novel therapeutic approaches and drug development process. Selected topics will be covered in order to give students a feeling of the field of biotechnology in health science. This course also aims to strengthen students' skills in literature comprehension and critical thinking.

**BIOL GU4305 SEMINAR IN BIOTECHNOLOGY. 3.00 points.**
Prerequisites: BIOL W4300 or the instructor’s permission.
Prerequisites: BIOL W4300 or the instructors permission. A weekly seminar and discussion course focusing on the most recent development in biotechnology. Professionals of the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and related industries will be invited to present and lead discussions.

**BIOL GU4310 INTENSIVE LAB IN BIOTECHNOLOGY. 0.00 points.**
Spring 2024: BIOL GU4310

**BIOL GU4323 BIOPHYSICAL CHEMISTRY I. 4.00 points.**
This course provides a rigorous introduction to the theory underlying widely used biophysical methods, which will be illustrated by practical applications to contemporary biomedical research problems. The course has two equally important goals. The first goal is to explain the fundamental approaches used by physical chemists to understand the behavior of molecules and to develop related analytical tools. The second goal is to prepare students to apply these methods themselves to their own molecular biology research projects. The course will be divided into seven modules: (i) solution thermodynamics with an emphasis on application to analysis of protein structure, folding, and binding interactions; (ii) hydrodynamic methods; (iii) statistical analysis of experimental data; (iv) molecular dynamics calculations; (v) optical spectroscopy with an emphasis on fluorescence; (vi) nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy; and (vii) light-scattering and diffraction methods including an overview of cryogenic electron microscopy reconstruction methods. In each module, the underlying physical theories and models will be presented and used to derive the mathematical equations applied to the analysis of experimental data. Weekly recitations will emphasize the analysis of real experimental data and understanding the applications of biophysical experimentation in published research papers. The problem sets emphasize use of PyMOL for analysis of macromolecular structures and use of standard curve-fitting software for analysis of protein binding data; detailed tutorials on the related methods are provided in the recitation sections. The first three modules will be covered in Biophysical Chemistry I during the fall term, while the final three will be covered in Biophysical Chemistry II during the spring term, and treatment of molecular dynamics calculations will be divided between the two terms.

**BIOL GU4402 Biological Image Computing. 3.00 points.**
We will aim for practical understanding of the fundamentals of Python programming, image visualization & rendering tools and common image processing tasks, including image segmentation, measurements of features and registration.

**BIOL GU4501 Biochemistry I - Structure & Metabolism. 4.00 points.**
In this course, we will explore the basic biochemistry of living systems and how this knowledge can be harnessed to create new medicines. We will learn how living systems convert environmental resources into energy through metabolism, and how they use this energy and these materials to build the molecules required for the diverse functions of life. We will discuss the applications of this biochemical knowledge to mechanisms of disease and to drug discovery. We will look at examples of drug discovery related to neurodegeneration, cancer, and the SARS-CoV-2 COVID19 pandemic. This course satisfies the requirement of most medical schools for introductory biochemistry, and is suitable for advanced undergraduates, and beginning graduate students. This course is equivalent to and replaces the prior course named UN3501, and is equivalent to the course offered in the summer.
BIOL GU4505 Biochemistry I Recitation in VR: Leveraging Virtual Reality.  
0.00 points.
In this course, we will use virtual reality to explore the basic biochemistry of living systems and how this knowledge can be harnessed to create new medicines. We will learn how living systems convert environmental resources into energy through metabolism, and how they use this energy and these materials to build the molecules required for the diverse functions of life. We will discuss the applications of this biochemical knowledge to mechanisms of disease and to drug discovery. We will look at examples of drug discovery related to neurodegeneration, cancer, and the SARS-CoV-2 COVID19 pandemic. This course satisfies the requirement of most medical schools for introductory biochemistry, and is suitable for advanced undergraduates, and beginning graduate students. This course is equivalent to and replaces the prior course named UN3501, and is equivalent to the course offered in the Fall semester. This course is a co-requisite to GU4501. We will meet twice each week in Zoom (Tuesday and Thursday 2:30-5:15, GU4501) to discuss the course material. We will then meet Wednesday 9:30-10:30 each week in virtual reality, using the Spatial.io platform and an Oculus Quest headset. In VR, we will examine the 3D spatial concepts relevant to biochemistry, where you will be able to examine molecular structures in an immersive format.

BIOL GU4506 Biochemistry I in XR: Mixed Reality. 1.00 point.
In this course, we will use mixed reality to explore the basic 3D aspects of biochemistry of living systems and how this knowledge can be harnessed to create new medicines. Students may register for this course alongside of GU4501 or independent of GU4501. Professor Stockwell will meet each week with a group of 4 students to discuss protein structures using Oculus Quest Pro Mixed Reality headsets in the XR app Nanome. Students will rotate through in person meetings but can join all weekly sessions using a virtual live stream. We will examine 3D spatial concepts relevant to biochemistry, where you will be able to examine molecular structures in an immersive format in real time with other students and with the instructor.

BIOL GU4510 Genomics of Gene Regulation. 4 points.
Prerequisites: one year of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. Courses taken at CU are recommended, but AP courses may be sufficient with the instructor’s permission.
This course will provide students with a quantitative understanding of the ways in which molecular interactions between nucleotides and proteins give rise to the behavior of gene regulatory networks. The key high-throughput genomics technologies for probing the cell at different levels using microarrays and next-generation sequencing will be discussed. Strategies for interpreting and integrating these data using statistics, biophysics, and genetics will be introduced. In computer exercises, student will learn the basics of the R language, and use it to perform analyses of genomics data sets. No prior computer programming experience is assumed. This highly interdisciplinary course is intended for advanced undergraduates as well as beginning graduate students in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Engineering, and Computer Science. Offered in previous years as CHBC W4510.

BIOL GU4511 Biochemistry I recitation: Structure and Metabolism. 0.00 points.
This is the recitation for GU4501. How does life work on a molecular level? Why do we succumb to disease, and how can we create new cures? This course will explore the biochemistry of life and how this knowledge can be harnessed to create new medicines. You will learn how cells convert environmental resources into energy through metabolism, how cellular molecules function, and how to use this biochemical knowledge for drug discovery related to neurodegeneration, cancer, and the current SARS-CoV-2 COVID19 pandemic. At the conclusion of the course, you will be able to diagram the major metabolic pathways and compare how these pathways are dysregulated in normal tissues in and in disease states. In addition, you will know what techniques are used to uncover biochemical knowledge and how to interpret relevant experiments. You will be capable of collaborating with other people in the analysis and interpretation of biochemical data, and be able to communicate, defend and refute interpretations of data. Having completed one year of college-level biology and one year of organic chemistry will be helpful to maximally benefit from this course. This course satisfies the requirement of most medical schools for introductory biochemistry, and is suitable for advanced undergraduates, and beginning graduate students; this replaces the previous UN3511 course.

BIOL GU4512 Molecular Biology. 3.00 points.
Prerequisites: one year of biology. This is a lecture course designed for advanced undergraduates and graduate students. The focus is on understanding at the molecular/biochemical level how genetic information is stored within the cell, how it is replicated and expressed, and how it is regulated. Topics covered include genome organization, DNA replication and repair, transcription, RNA processing, and translation. This course will also emphasize the critical analysis of the scientific literature and help students understand how to identify important biological problems and how to address them experimentally. SPS and TC students may register for this course, but they must first obtain the written permission of the instructor, by filling out a paper Registration Adjustment Form (Add/Drop form). The form can be downloaded at the URL below, but must be signed by the instructor and returned to the office of the registrar. http://registrar.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/reg-adjustment.pdf

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<td>001/10380</td>
<td>M 2:40pm - 3:55pm 601 Fairchild Life Sciences Bldg</td>
<td>Alice Heicklen</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>34/60</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 4512</td>
<td>001/10380</td>
<td>W 2:40pm - 3:55pm 330 Uris Hall</td>
<td>Alice Heicklen</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>34/60</td>
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Spring 2024: BIOL GU4510
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 4510</td>
<td>001/15451</td>
<td>M 2:40pm - 5:25pm 800 Fairchild Life Sciences Bldg</td>
<td>Harmen Bussemaker</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>25/25</td>
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BIOL GU4551 A STRUCTURAL VIEW OF BIOLOGY. 3.00 POINTS.
The course covers a general introduction to the theory and experimental
techniques of structural biology (protein expression and purification,
protein crystallography, cryo-electron microscopy, nuclear magnetic
resonance) and then how to use the structural information to understand
biochemical and biological processes. The first part of the course will
cover the general introduction to structural biology. The second part of
the course will involve discussions and explorations of various structures,
led by the instructor but with substantial participation from the students,
to understand the molecular mechanisms of selected biochemical and
biological processes. In the final part of the course, each student will
select and lead discussions on a primary structural biology paper. The
overall goal of the course is to increase the understanding of how protein
structures are determined, what protein structures look like, and how to
use the structures to understand biology.

BIOL GU4560 EVOLUTION IN THE AGE OF GENOMICS. 4.00 POINTS.
Prerequisites: introductory genetics or the instructor’s permission.
This course introduces basic concepts in evolutionary biology, from
speciation to natural selection. While the lectures incorporate a historical
perspective, the main goal of the class is to familiarize students with
topics and tools of evolutionary genetics as practiced today, in the era of
genomics. Thus, the focus will be on evidence from molecular evolution
and genetics and exercises will assume a basic background in genetics.
Examples will be drawn from across the tree of life, but with a primary
focus on humans.

BIOL GU4600 CELL SIGNALING. 3.00 POINTS.
Prerequisites: A strong background in molecular and cellular biology.
Generally students with four or more courses are accepted.
Prerequisites: A strong background in molecular and cellular biology.
Generally students with four or more courses are accepted. Cell Signaling
is a graduate course for Ph.D. students open to advanced undergraduate
and masters students. The basic molecular mechanism of signal
transduction pathways will be discussed related to cell growth and
stress systems. There will be an emphasis on specific categories of
signaling components. Students will read the literature and give
presentations. Topics include the pathways by which cells respond to
extracellular signals such as growth factors and the mechanisms by
which extracellular signals are translated into alterations in the cell cycle,
morphology, differentiation state, and motility of the responding cells. For
stress pathways we will discuss how cells respond to survive the stress
or induce their own death. In many cases these pathways will be related
to human diseases.

BIOL GU4777 FROM CURIOSITY TO CURE – CASE STUDIES IN COOL
BIOCHEMISTRY. 4.00 POINTS.
Course overview: The goal of this course is to engage upper-level
undergraduates and beginning graduate students in an immersive
intellectual experience at the intersection of rigorous scientific inquiry
and the history of innovation in molecular biology. The central theme
will be curiosity and critical thinking as the twin drivers of both technological
innovation and scientific discovery. The course will be divided into a
series of modules focused on analysis and presentation of original
research papers related to one important breakthrough in molecular
biology that occurred during the past century. A prominent theme of
the course will be the persistently unpredictable trajectory linking
technical research and methodological developments to breakthrough
science. Approximately six-to-eight original research papers will be
covered in each module, spanning topics from the development of the
methods that made the breakthrough possible through practical
application of the resulting knowledge. Three or four of the following
breakthroughs will likely be covered in 2023: Discovery and clinical
application of insulin by Banting & Best. Development of the Trikafta
triple drug treatment for cystic fibrosis. Development of CRISPR
for human genetic engineering. Genetics and pharmacological treatment
of human hyperlipidemia. Development of the Gleevec tyrosine kinase
inhibitor to cure Ph leukemias. Development of "next-generation" nucleic
cid sequencing methods.

BIOL GU4799 MOLECULAR BIOLOGY OF CANCER. 3.00 POINTS.
Tracing the discovery of the role of DNA tumor viruses in cancerous
transformation. Oncogenes and tumor suppressors are analyzed with
respect to their function in normal cell cycle, growth control, and human
cancers. SCE and TC students may register for this course, but they
must first obtain the written permission of the instructor, by filing out a
paper Registration Adjustment Form (Add/Drop form). The form can be
downloaded at the URL below, but must be signed by the instructor and
default/files/content/reg-adjustment.pdf

BIOT GU4160 BIOTECHNOLOGY LAW. 3.00 POINTS.
Prerequisites: at least 4 college-level biology or biotechnology courses.
This course will introduce students to the interrelated fields of patent
law, regulatory law, and contract law that are vital to the biotech and
biopharmaceutical sectors. The course will present core concepts in
a way that permits students to use them throughout their corporate,
avademic, and government careers. SCE and TC students may register
for this course, but they must first obtain the written permission of the
instructor, by filing out a paper Registration Adjustment Form (Add/
Drop form). The form can be downloaded at the URL below, but must be
signed by the instructor and returned to the office of the registrar. http://
registrar.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/reg-adjustment.pdf
BIOT GU4161 ETHICS IN BIOPHARM PAT/REG LAW. 3.00 points.
Prerequisites: BIOT GU4160 BIOTECHNOLOGY LAW (BIOT W4160)
This course – the first of its kind at Columbia – introduces students to a
vital subfield of ethics focusing on patent and regulatory law in the
biotech and pharmaceutical sectors. The course combines lectures,
structured debate, and research to best present this fascinating and
nuanced subject. Properly exploring this branch of biethics requires
an in-depth understanding of biotech and pharmaceutical patent and
regulatory law. Students can gain this understanding by first completing
Biotechnology Law (BIOT GU4160), formerly the prerequisite for this
course. Now, they can also gain it by reading the appropriate chapters
of Biotechnology Law: A Primer for Scientists (the textbook for BIOT
GU4160 published earlier this year) prior to each class. A number of
students in the biotechnology fields (such as those in biotechnology,
biomedical engineering, and bioethics programs) have shown a keen
interest over the years in taking this course, yet were unable to do so
because they hadn’t taken BIOT GU4160. Given the recent publication
of Biotechnology Law and the desirability of making BIOT GU4161
accessible to more students having the appropriate science background,
BIOT GU4161 has been removed as a prerequisite

Spring 2024: BIOT GU4161
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
BIOT 4161 001/10498 T 6:10pm - 8:00pm 328 Uris Hall Alan Morrison 3.00 10/12

BIOT GU4180 ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN BIOTECH. 3.00 points.
Prerequisites: the instructors permission. The course examines the
entrepreneurial process in biotechnology from idea generation through
economic viability. Biotechnology companies are unique in that they
need a years-to-decades long period of incubation prior to becoming
self-sustaining. Students will be introduced to the steps needed to
start and nurture a company, and gain an ability to assess the health
of potential collaborators, partners or employers. Topics include an
overview of the global biotechnology industry, idea generation, business
plan formulation, intellectual property protection, funding, personnel
management including board composition, regulatory body interaction,
and company exits. Course website: http://biot4180.weebly.com/

BIOT GU4200 BIOPHARMACEUTICAL DEV # REG. 3.00 points.
The program aims to provide current life sciences students with an
understanding of what drives the regulatory strategies that surround
the development decision making process, and how the regulatory
professional may best contribute to the goals of product development
and approval. To effect this, we will examine operational, strategic,
and commercial aspects of the regulatory approval process for new drug,
biologic, and biotechnology products both in the United States and
worldwide. The topics are designed to provide a chronological review
of the requirements needed to obtain marketing approval. Regulatory
strategic, operational, and marketing considerations will be addressed
throughout the course. We will examine and analyze the regulatory
process as a product candidates are advanced from Research and
Development, through pre-clinical and clinical testing, to marketing
approval, product launch and the post-marketing phase. The goal of this
course is to introduce and familiarize students with the terminology,
timelines, and actual steps followed by Regulatory Affairs professionals
employed in the pharmaceutical or biotechnology industry. Worked
examples will be explored to illustrate complex topics and illustrate
interpretation of regulations

Spring 2024: BIOT GU4200
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
BIOT 4200 001/11137 Th 4:10pm - 6:00pm Room TBA Ron Guido 3.00 0/100

BIOT GU4201 SEM-BIOTECH DEVPT # REGULATION. 3.00 points.
Prerequisites: BIOT W4200 (OK without prerequisite). This course
will provide a practical definition of the current role of the Regulatory
Professional in pharmaceutical development, approval and post-
approval actions. This will be illustrated by exploration, and interactive
discussion of regulatory history, its evolution, current standards,
and associated processes. The course will seek to clarify the role of
Regulatory in development and lifecycle opportunities, demonstrating
the value Regulatory adds by participation on research, development and
commercial teams. The course will utilize weekly case studies and guest
lecturers to provide color to current topical events related to the areas

Spring 2024: BIOT GU4201
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
BIOT 4201 001/14857 Th 4:10pm - 6:00pm 301 Uris Hall Ron Guido 3.00 275/266

Of Related Interest
Biomedical Engineering
BMEN E4150 THE CELL AS A MACHINE
Chemistry
CHEM UN1403 GENERAL CHEMISTRY I-LECTURES
CHEM UN1404 GENERAL CHEMISTRY II-LECTURES
CHEM UN1500 GENERAL CHEMISTRY LABORATORY
CHEM UN2443 ORGANIC CHEMISTRY I-LECTURES
CHEM UN2444 ORGANIC CHEMISTRY II-LECTURES
CHEM UN2493 ORGANIC CHEM. LAB I TECHNIQUES
CHEM UN2494 ORGANIC CHEM. LAB II SYNTHESIS
CHEM UN3079 PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY I-LECTURES
CHEM UN3080 PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY II-LECTURES
CHEM UN3085 PHYSICSL ANALYTCL LABORATORY I
CHEM UN3086 PHYSICSL ANALYTCL LABORATORY II
Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology
EEEB UN2001 ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY I
EEEB GU4321 HUM NATURE:DNA,RACE # IDENTITY
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<td>PSYC UN1010 Mind, Brain and Behavior</td>
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