

Microbiology and Immunology 2500A/B The Biology of Infection and Immunity

Course outline for Winter 2021



Although this academic year might be different, Western University is committed to a **thriving campus**. We encourage you to check out the [Digital Student Experience](#) website to manage your academics and well-being. Additionally, the following link provides available resources to support students on and off campus: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

1. Technical Requirements:



Stable internet connection



Laptop or computer



Working microphone
(recommended)



Working webcam (optional)

2. Course Overview and Important Dates:

Time reflects Eastern Time (London ON)



Delivery Mode	Dates	Time
Online	M/W/F	1130-1220am

*Details about design and delivery of the course are listed below in Section 4

Classes Start	Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
January 11	February 15-19	April 12	April 13	April 14 - 30

* March 14, 2021: Last day to drop a first-term half course or a first-term full course without penalty

3. Contact Information



Course Co-Coordinators	Contact Information
Dr. Kelly Summers	Use OWL messages
Dr. John McCormick	Use OWL messages
Dr. Jimmy Dikeakos	Use OWL messages

Graduate Teaching Assistants	Contact Information
Mia Sams (immunology)	Use OWL messages
Rong (Roy) Zang (bacteriology)	Use OWL messages
Antony Lurie (virology, parasitology, mycology)	Use OWL messages

4. Course Description and Design

The biology of the human immune system and microbial pathogens including viruses, bacteria, parasites and fungi. Host-pathogen relationships and mechanisms used by microbes to cause disease will be emphasized.

Prerequisite(s): Either [Biology 1001A](#) or [Biology 1201A](#) and either [Biology 1002B](#) or [Biology 1202B](#).

Mode	Dates	Time	Frequency
Virtual synchronous	M/W/F TBD	11:30am-12:20pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tests and final exam, as scheduled• Instructor's weekly office hours
Virtual asynchronous	N/A	N/A	Recorded lectures will be posted on OWL ~24-hours prior to the scheduled lecture time.

Closed captioning may be provided on lectures.

A combined instructor/GTA office hour will be scheduled weekly during a 930-1030am timeslot. The day will be posted as an Announcement weekly.

If you have a question about the lecture material, please follow the steps below:

Step 1: Review your lecture notes for the answer.

Step 2: Listen to the lecture on the relevant section.

Step 3: Post your question(s) on the OWL forum.

Student questions MUST BE posted on the OWL forum PRIOR to attending office hours. The TAs and instructors will be answering these questions on a daily basis.

Step 4: Attend the Instructor/TA office hours.

The office hours will only be used for instructors and TAs to clarify the answer to your question posted on OWL if it is still unclear, or if you would like to discuss lecture material in more depth.

All course material will be posted to OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>. Any changes will be indicated on the OWL site and discussed with the class.

If students need assistance, they can seek support on the [OWL Help page](#). Alternatively, they can contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#). They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

[Google Chrome](#) or [Mozilla Firefox](#) are the preferred browsers to optimally use OWL; update you're your browsers frequently. Students interested in evaluating their internet speed, please click [here](#).

5. Learning Outcomes



The primary purpose of this course is to familiarize students with infection and immunity, including a basic understanding of how the human immune system responds to different infectious agents and a basic understanding of bacterial, viral, fungal and parasitic pathogens.

6. Online Participation and Engagement



- Students are expected to keep up with course content.
- Students are expected to post their questions on the OWL forum after watching the lecture recording. These will be answered by the instructors or GTAs in a timely manner.
- Students are expected to participate by interacting in the OWL forums with their peers and instructors.
- Questions emailed to instructors and GTAs on course lecture material will not be answered. Use the OWL forum and/or attend weekly Instructor/GTA office hours.

7. Course Content and Schedule



Week	Dates	Topic	Instructor
1	Jan 11 – 15	Immunology	Dr. Kelly Summers
2	Jan 18 - 22		
3	Jan 25 - 29		
4	Feb 1 – Feb 3		
	Feb 5	Midterm 1: Immunology	Covers all immunology lectures
5	Feb 8 – 12	Bacteriology	Dr. John McCormick Dr. Stephen Tufts
6	Feb 15 – 19	Reading Week	
7	Feb 22 - 26	Bacteriology	Dr. John McCormick Dr. Stephen Tufts
8	Mar 1 – Mar 5		
	Mar 8	Midterm 2: Bacteriology	Covers all bacteriology lectures
9	Mar 10 - 12	Virology	Dr. Jimmy Dikeakos
10	Mar 15 – 19		
11	Mar 22 - 26		
12	Mar 29		
12	Mar 31	Parasitology and Mycology	Dr. Mariya Goncheva
13	Apr 5 – Apr 9		
14	Apr 12	Prions	Dr. John McCormick
X	TBA	Covers Virology, Parasitology, Mycology, Prions Final Exam will be held during the Final Exam Period TBD	

8. Evaluations

Below is the evaluation breakdown for the course. Any deviations will be communicated.



Assessment	Format	Weighting	Date
Midterm 1	MCQ	30%	Feb 5 @ 1130-1220pm
Midterm 2	MCQ	30%	Mar 8 @ 1130-1220pm
Final Exam	MCQ	40%	TBD

Information about late or missed evaluations:

- There are no make-up midterm tests in this course. Instead you will write an alternate final exam with the weight of the missed test(s) transferred to the final exam.
- If a make-up assessment is missed, the student will receive an INC and complete the task the next time the course is offered.

Click [here](#) for a detailed and comprehensive set of policies and regulations concerning examinations and grading. The table below outlines the University-wide grade descriptors.

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

9. Practice Quiz Schedule:

The instructors will provide the following Practice Quizzes on the dates below. These Practice Quizzes will be available on the dates below and until the end of the semester. These Practice Quizzes are to help you understand the material and will not count towards your final grade.

Practice Quiz opens at 11:30am on the following dates:

Practice Quiz 1 – Feb 1

Practice Quiz 2 – Mar 3

Practice Quiz 3 – Mar 26

Practice Quiz 4 – Apr 9

10. Communication:



- Students should check the OWL site every 24 – 48 hours.
- A weekly update will be provided on the OWL announcements.
- This course will use Zoom for weekly instructor and GTA office hours.
- This course will use the OWL forum for student questions and discussions.
- Students should post all course-related content on the discussion forum so that everyone can access answers to questions.
- The discussion forums will be monitored daily by instructors and teaching assistants.
- Students with personal concerns should email their instructor(s) using OWL “messages”. It will be monitored daily; students will receive a response in 24 – 48 hours. Questions on course material sent to instructors or GTAs via OWL messages will not be answered.

11. Office Hours:



- Office hours will be held remotely using Zoom weekly.
- Dates/times will be announced on OWL weekly.
- Instructor/GTA office hours will be available for everyone to attend.

12. Resources



- All resources will be posted in OWL.
- Required readings will be posted in OWL.
- There is no textbook requirement for this course.

13. Professionalism & Privacy:

Western students are expected to follow the [Student Code of Conduct](#). Additionally, the following expectations and professional conduct apply to this course:



- Students are expected to follow online etiquette expectations provided on OWL.
- All course materials created by the instructor(s) are copyrighted and cannot be sold/shared.
- Recordings are not permitted (audio or video) without explicit permission.
- Permitted recordings are not to be distributed – it is illegal to share them.
- Students will be expected to take an academic integrity pledge before some assessments.
- All recorded sessions will remain within the course site or unlisted if streamed.

14. How to Be Successful in this Class:

Students enrolled in this class should understand the level of autonomy and self-discipline required to be successful.



1. Invest in a planner or application to keep track of your courses. Populate all your deadlines at the start of the term and schedule time at the start of each week to get organized and manage your time.
2. Make it a daily habit to log onto OWL to ensure you have seen everything posted to help you succeed in this class. Keep up with the material.
3. Follow weekly checklists created on OWL or create your own to help you stay on track.
4. Take notes as you go through the lesson material. Treat this course as you would a face-to-face course. Keeping handwritten notes or even notes on a regular Word document will help you learn more effectively than just reading or watching the videos.
5. Connect with others. Try forming an online study group and try meeting on a weekly basis for study and peer support.
6. Do not be afraid to ask questions. If you are struggling with a topic, check the online discussion boards or contact your instructor(s) and/or teaching assistant(s).
7. Reward yourself for successes. It seems easier to motivate ourselves knowing that there is something waiting for us at the end of the task.

15. Western Academic Policies and Statements

Absence from Course Commitments

[Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences](#)

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, you must seek approval for the absence as soon as possible. Approval can be granted either through a **self-reported absence** or via the **Academic Counselling** unit. Students have two self-reports to use throughout the academic year; absence from course commitments including tests, presentations, labs, and assignments that are worth 30% or less can be self-reported. Self-reported absences cover a student for 48 hours (yesterday + today or today + tomorrow). Your instructor will receive notification of your consideration; however, you should contact your instructor immediately regarding your absence. Students are expected to submit missed work within 24 hours of the end of the 48-hour period. Please review details of the [university's policy on academic consideration for student absences](#).

If you have used both their self-reported absences or will miss more than 48 hours of course requirements, a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) should be signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner and you should contact academic counselling. Academic Counselling will be operating virtually this year and can be contacted at scibmsac@uwo.ca.

Accommodation for Religious Holidays

The policy on Accommodation for Religious Holidays can be viewed [here](#).

Special Examinations

A Special Examination is any examination other than the regular examination, and it may be offered only with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered, in consultation with the instructor and Department Chair. Permission to write a Special Examination may be given on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documents. To provide an opportunity for students to recover from the circumstances resulting in a Special Examination, the University has implemented Special Examinations dates. These dates as well as other important information about examinations and academic standing can be found [here](#).

Academic Offences

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed [here](#) to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence.

Accessibility Statement

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education (AE) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation or review [The policy on Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Correspondence Statement

The centrally administered **e-mail account** provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at his/her official university address is attended to in a timely manner. You can read about the privacy and security of the UWO email accounts [here](#).

16. BMSUE Academic Policies and Statements

Copyright and Audio/Video Recording Statement

Course material produced by faculty is copyrighted and to reproduce this material for any purposes other than your own educational use contravenes Canadian Copyright Laws. You must always ask permission to record another individual and you should never share or distribute recordings.

Rounding of Marks Statement

Across the Basic Medical Sciences Undergraduate Education programs, we strive to maintain high standards that reflect the effort that both students and faculty put into the teaching and learning experience during this course. All students will be treated equally and evaluated based only on their actual achievement. **Final grades** on this course, irrespective of the number of decimal places used in marking individual assignments and tests, will be calculated to one decimal place and rounded to the nearest integer, e.g., 74.4 becomes 74, and 74.5 becomes 75. Marks WILL NOT be bumped to the next grade or GPA, e.g. a 79 will NOT be bumped up to an 80, an 84 WILL NOT be bumped up to an 85, etc. The mark attained is the mark you achieved, and the mark assigned; requests for mark “bumping” will be denied.

17. Support Services

The following links provide information about support services at Western University.

[Academic Counselling \(Science and Basic Medical Sciences\)](#)

[Appeal Procedures](#)

[Registrarial Services](#)

[Student Development Services](#)

[Student Health Services](#)