

**Pathology and Laboratory Medicine**  
**PATHOL 4200A: Current Concepts in the Pathogenesis of Human Disease**

Course Outline for Fall 2025

*This course takes place at Western University, which is located on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton Nations, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum.*

Students who are in emotional and/or mental distress should refer to <https://www.uwo.ca/health/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

**1. Technical Requirements:**



Stable internet connection



Laptop or computer

**2. Important Dates:**

Classes Begin	Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
September 4	November 3–9	December 9	December 10	December 11–22

September 30, 2025: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation; non-instructional day

September 12, 2025: Last day to add or drop a Fall 12-week course

December 1, 2025: Last day to withdraw from a Fall 12-week course without academic penalty

**3. Contact Information**

Course Coordinator	Contact Information
Dr. Jina Kum	

Instructor(s) or Teaching Assistant(s)	Contact Information

## 4. Course Description and Design

### Delivery Mode: In-person

This course will cover current concepts in the molecular and cellular pathogenesis of selected human diseases. Topics will include various immune diseases, cancer diagnosis and treatments as well as emerging pathogens. Emphasis will be on cellular and molecular mechanisms driving disease and how gene defects and/or genetic variation influence susceptibility and trajectory of disease. Prerequisite(s): Pathology 3500 with a mark of at least 70% or the former Pathology 3240A and the former Pathology 3245B with a mark of at least 70% in each.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

### Timetabled Sessions

Component	Date(s)	Time
Lecture	Tuesdays	1:30 PM–3:30 PM

- Attendance at sessions is required
- Missed work should be completed within 24 hours

All course material will be posted to OWL Brightspace: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/login>. Any changes will be indicated on the OWL Brightspace site and discussed with the class.

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

Current versions of all popular browsers (e.g., Safari, Chrome, Edge, Firefox) are supported with OWL Brightspace; what is most important is that you update your browser frequently to ensure it is current. All JavaScript and cookies should be enabled.

## 5. Learning Outcomes

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

- Immunology and pathogenesis underlying the development of autoimmune disease
- How “Next Generation” sequencing, “Digital Pathology” and “Generative AI” are revolutionizing our understanding of disease and new ways of disease classification
- Molecular pathology of leukemias and other myeloproliferative neoplasms
- Molecular pathogenesis and diagnosis of some important endocrine neoplasms
- The concept of “Precision Medicine” and how it applies to asthma
- Effects of biological sex on health and disease
- Immunology of cancer and different types of cancer vaccines
- Molecular and cellular mechanisms of tumor progression
- Virology, immunology, testing and vaccines for COVID19

## 6. Course Content and Schedule

Week	Dates	Topic	Instructor
1	Sept 4–7	No class	N/A
2	Sept 8–14	Introduction to Current Concepts; Overview of Immune System and Immune Concepts	Dr. J. Kum; Dr. M. Quiñones-Mateu
3	Sept 15–21	Autoimmune Disease	Dr. M. Quiñones-Mateu
4	Sept 22–28	Digital Pathology and Generative AI	Dr. M. Cecchini
5	Sept 29–Oct 5	No Class	N/A
6	Oct 6–12	Signaling Derangements in Acute and Chronic Leukemias	Dr. C. Howlett
7	Oct 13–19	Molecular Endocrinology of Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia	Dr. C. Howlett
8	Oct 20–Oct 26	Precision Medicine and Asthma	Dr. A. Bhalla
	October 29 5:00–6:30 PM	<b>Midterm Exam</b> [Covers content up to and including Precision Medicine and Asthma]	
9	Oct 27–Nov 2	Immunology of Cancer	Dr. M. Quiñones-Mateu
10	Nov 3–9	Reading Week (starts November 3 <sup>rd</sup> 12:01 AM)	N/A
11	Nov 10–16	Stress and the Immune System	Dr. M. Quiñones-Mateu
12	Nov 17–23	Sex as a Biological Variable in Health and Disease	Dr. M. Quiñones-Mateu
13	Nov 24–30	Immuno-Oncology I	Dr. S. Maleki
14	Dec 1–7	Immuno-Oncology II	Dr. S. Maleki
15	Dec 8, 9	Overview of COVID-19: Virology and Zoonosis	Dr. S. Barr
	TBD	<b>Final Exam</b> [Covers content from Immunology of Cancer to and including Overview of COVID-19: Virology and Zoonosis]	

## 7. Participation and Engagement

- Students are expected to participate and engage with content as much as possible
- Students can participate during in class sessions
- Students are expected to participate by interacting in the forums with their peers and TAs

## 8. Assessment and Evaluation

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

Assessment	Format	Weighting	Due Date	Flexibility
Quizzes	Multiple choice	20%	Respective Fridays	Drop lowest 2; no late penalty if submitted within 48 hours (i.e., respective Sundays)
Midterm Exam	Short Answer	40%	October 29, 2025; 5:00–6:30 PM	Not applicable
Final Exam	Short Answer	40%	Exam date to be announced	Not applicable

**Designated Assessment:** Instructors are permitted to designate one assessment per course per term as requiring supporting documentation to receive academic consideration. See below for information on academic consideration policy and missed course work. For this course, the following assessment has been designated as requiring supporting documentation:

- Midterm Exam: October 29, 2025

**Information about flexibility in assessment**

- Flexibility in assessment has been applied to this course; therefore, academic consideration requests may be denied on the assessments where flexibility is included
- This course has 12 weekly quizzes. Only 10/12 will be counted towards your final grade. Academic consideration will not be granted for missed quizzes.
- If less than 10 quizzes are written, students will receive a grade of zero on those not completed.
- Weekly quizzes are due Friday 11:59 PM ET of the same week. However, there is a 48 hour 'no late penalty', so the **firm deadline** is Sunday 11:55 PM ET of the same week. Quizzes completed after this date/time will receive a grade of zero.

**General information about assessments**

- Quizzes will be published on Tuesday and are due on Friday 11:59 PM EST of the same week unless otherwise specified
- Once opened there will be 5 minutes to answer the quiz. These will be available for one attempt only; they cannot be reopened
- Quizzes will be submitted automatically after 5 minutes of opening the quiz.
- Best grades from 10 quizzes will be used
- After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting their evaluator; to ensure a timely response, reach out within 7 days
- Assessment re-grading could result in the mark, increasing, decreasing, or remaining the same
- Prior to the filing of a written request for relief, students must attempt to resolve the concern regarding a mark or grade through informal consultation with the instructor. If the student is dissatisfied with the decision of the instructor or does not receive a decision from the instructor, a written request for relief must be submitted to the Department Chair within three (3) weeks from the date that the mark was issued.

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

**Information about late or missed assessments:**

- This course is assessed with non-cumulative exams. Therefore, students must pass both the Midterm Exam and the Final Exam to pass the course. If these elements are missed, the student will receive INC and will be required to complete the next time course is offered.
- One make-up exam will be offered on November 11, 2025.
- Only one special examination (see below) will be offered in January

**INC (Incomplete Standing):** If a student has been approved by the Academic Advising Office (in consultation with the instructor/department) to complete term work at a later date, an INC will be assigned, which could impact program progression. Students with INC will have their course load in

subsequent terms reduced to allow them to complete outstanding course work. Students may request permission from Academic Advising to carry a full course load for the term the incomplete course work is scheduled.

**SPC (Special examination):** If a student has been approved by the Academic Advising Office to write a Special Examination and the final exam is the only outstanding course component, an SPC will be assigned. If the class has a makeup exam, the student is expected to write the makeup exam. If the class doesn't have a makeup for the final exam or the student misses the makeup for the final exam for reasons approved by the Academic Advising Office, the student will write the exam the next time the course is offered, which could impact program progression. Outstanding SPCs will reduce the course load for the term the exam is deferred as outlined in [Definitions of Types of Examinations](#) policy.

## 9. Communication

- Students should check the OWL Brightspace site every 24–48 hours
- Students should email their instructor(s) and teaching assistant(s) using email
- Emails will be monitored daily; students will receive a response in 24–48 hours
- This course will use discussions on Brightspace
- Students should post all course-related queries on the discussion forum so that everyone can access the questions and responses

## 10. Office Hours

- Office hours will be held in-person or remotely using Zoom by making an appointment with the TAs

## 11. Course Materials

- All resources will be posted on OWL Brightspace

## 12. Professionalism & Privacy

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

- All course materials created by the instructor(s) are copyrighted and cannot be sold/shared/upload (e.g., Must Knows Facebook group, Course Hero, Chegg, ChatGPT, etc.)
- Recordings are not permitted (audio or video) without explicit permission
- Permitted recordings are not to be distributed
- Students will be expected to take an academic integrity pledge before some assessments

Western is committed to providing a learning and working environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. All **students**, staff, and faculty have a role in this commitment and have a responsibility to ensure and promote a safe and respectful learning and working environment. Relevant policies include Western's [Non-Discrimination/Harassment Policy](#) (M.A.P.P. 1.35) and [Non-Discrimination/Harassment Policy – Administrative Procedures](#) (M.A.P.P. 1.35). Any **student**, staff, or faculty member who experiences or witnesses' behaviour that may be harassment or discrimination **must report the behaviour** to the Western's [Human Rights Office](#). Harassment and discrimination can be human rights-based, which is also known as EDI-based, (sexism, racism, transphobia, homophobia, islamophobia, xenophobia, antisemitism, and ableism) or non-human rights-based (personal harassment or workplace harassment).

## 13. 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 your time throughout the course.
2. Make it a daily habit to log onto OWL Brightspace to ensure you have seen everything posted to help you succeed in this class.
3. Follow checklists created on OWL Brightspace or create your own to help you stay on track.
4. Take notes as you go through the lesson material. 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.

## 14. Western Academic Policies/Procedures and Statements

### A. Absence from Course Commitments

#### Medical, Compassionate, or Extenuating Circumstances

Students missing course work for medical, compassionate, or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request at the [central academic consideration portal](#). Students are permitted one academic consideration request per course per term **without** supporting documentation. Note that supporting documentation is **always** required for academic consideration requests for examinations scheduled by the office of the registrar (e.g., December and April exams) and for practical laboratory and performance tests (typically scheduled during the last week of the term).

Students should also note that the instructor may **designate** one assessment per course per term that requires supporting documentation. This designated assessment is described elsewhere in this document. Academic consideration requests may be denied when flexibility in assessment has already been included. Examples of flexibility in assessment include when there are assessments not required for calculation of the final grade (e.g. 8 out of 10 quizzes) or there is flexibility in the submission timeframe (e.g. 72 hour no late penalty period).

Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor of this course, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course syllabus. Supporting documentation for academic considerations for absences due to illness should use the Student Medical Certificate or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner.

**Policy:** [Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

**Procedures:** [Student Medical Certificate](#)

#### Religious Holidays

Students should review the policy for Accommodation for Religious Holidays (Appendix 1). Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but not later than two weeks prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

**Policy:** [Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#)

## 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.

**Policy:** [Definitions of Types of Examinations](#)

### **B. Academic Appeals and Scholastic Offenses**

Students can file a **request for relief from academic decisions** if the request is based on one or more grounds listed in the policy. Requests for relief generally fall into three categories, which are also listed in the policy. All requests for relief must be supported by evidence. A request for relief from academic decisions process was formally referred to as an appeal. Refer to the policy and procedures about further details and timelines.

**Policy:** [Requests for Relief from Academic Decisions](#)

**Procedures:** [Undergraduate Student Academic Requests for Relief](#)

**Scholastic offences** are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a scholastic offence.

**Policy:** [Scholastic Offences](#)

**Procedures:** [Undergraduate Scholastic Offences](#)

Students may **appeal** some academic and scholastic disciplinary decisions by a Dean or their designate, to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA).

**Policy:** [Senate Review Board Academic Appeals](#)

**Procedures:** [Senate Review Board Academic Appeals](#)

### **C. 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.

**Policy:** [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#)

### **D. 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.

### **E. Discovery Credit Statement**

Students are permitted to designate up to 1.0 Discovery Credit course (or equivalent) for pass/fail grading that can be counted toward the overall course credits required for their degree program.

**Policy:** [Undergraduate Course Credit](#)

**Procedures:** [Discovery Credits](#)

## **F. Statement on the Use of Electronic Devices**

Within this course, laptops, tablets, and other electronic devices are welcome and encouraged for learning purposes—whether you're taking notes, accessing course materials, using learning apps, or collaborating with peers. Please use your devices responsibly and in ways that support your learning and that of others. Non-academic use (e.g., messaging, social media, or unrelated browsing) during class can be distracting, so please be mindful of the learning environment.

## **G. Statement on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

Within this course, students are permitted to use AI tools exclusively for information gathering and preliminary research purposes. These tools are intended to enhance the learning experience by providing access to diverse information sources. However, it is essential that students critically evaluate the obtained information, exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research to synthesize and develop their own ideas, arguments, and perspectives. The use of AI tools can serve as a starting point for exploration, with students expected to uphold academic integrity by appropriately attributing all sources and avoiding plagiarism. Assignments should reflect the students' own thoughts and independent written work. By adhering to these guidelines, students contribute to a responsible and ethical learning environment that promotes critical thinking, independent inquiry and allows them to produce original written contributions.

## **H. Turnitin and other similarity review software**

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between Western University and [Turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com).

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

# **15. BMSUE Academic Policies and Statements**

## **A. Cell Phone and Electronic Device Policy (for in-person tests and exams)**

The Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry is committed to ensuring that testing and evaluation are undertaken fairly across all our departments and programs. For all tests and exams, it is the policy of the School that any electronic devices, e.g., cell phones, tablets, cameras, smart glasses, smart watch or iPod are strictly prohibited. These devices **MUST** be left either at home or with the student's bag/jacket at the front of the room and **MUST NOT** be at the test/exam desk or in the individual's pocket. Any student found with one of these prohibited devices will receive a grade of zero on the test or exam and this will be documented as a Scholastic Offence. Non-programmable calculators are only allowed when indicated by the instructor. The program is not responsible for stolen/lost or broken devices.

## **B. Copyright and Audio/Video Recording Statement**

Course materials produced by faculty are 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.

## **C. 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** in this course are rounded to the nearest whole number based on the first decimal place. For example, a grade of 74.49 or lower will be rounded to 74, whereas 74.50 or higher will be rounded to 75.

Marks WILL NOT be arbitrarily increased to the next grade or GPA, e.g., a 79 will NOT be increased to an 80, and 84 WILL NOT be increased to an 85, etc. The mark attained is the mark you achieved, and the mark assigned; requests for arbitrary mark increasing will be denied. Marks will be assigned based on assessments in the syllabus and no extra work or tasks will be assigned to increase a mark.

**Course grade** rounding provisions, as described above, differ from cumulative and term averages. Cumulative and term averages will be calculated to two decimal places and rounded to the nearest whole number with .45 rounded up, for the purposes of admission to and progression in modules, scholarship retention, and Dean's Honour List.

**Policy:** [Marks/Grades; Definitions of Grades; Grading Scale for Undergraduate Students](#)

## 16. Support Services

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @Western <https://www.uwo.ca/health/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

### Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website:

[https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html)

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

Other important links:

- [Academic Advising \(Science and Basic Medical Sciences\)](#)
- [Learning Development and Success](#)
- [Office of the Registrar](#)
- [Wellness & Wellbeing](#)
- [Western USC Services](#)

## Appendix 1: Western University Academic Policies and Procedures

The policies and procedures listed in this syllabus are outlined in the table below. In some cases, a policy does not include an accompanied procedures document.

Academic Policy	Name of Policy/Procedure	Links
General Policy	Marks/Grades; Definitions of Grades; Grading Scale for Undergraduate Students	<a href="#">Policy</a>
General Policy	Structure of the Academic Year	<a href="#">Policy</a>
Registration, Progression, Graduation	Course Numbering Policy, Essay Courses, and Hours of Instruction	<a href="#">Policy</a>
Registration, Progression, Graduation	Undergraduate Course Credit	<a href="#">Policy</a> • <a href="#">Procedures</a>
Examinations	Definitions of Types of Examinations	<a href="#">Policy</a>
Examinations	Evaluation of Academic Performance	<a href="#">Policy</a>
Examinations	Examination Conflicts	<a href="#">Policy</a>
Rights and Responsibilities	Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities	<a href="#">Policy</a>
Rights and Responsibilities	Accommodation for Religious Holidays	<a href="#">Policy</a>
Rights and Responsibilities	Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs	<a href="#">Policy</a> • <a href="#">Procedures</a>
Rights and Responsibilities	Requests for Relief from Academic Decisions (Undergraduate)	<a href="#">Policy</a> • <a href="#">Procedures</a>
Rights and Responsibilities	Requests for Relief from Academic Decisions (Graduate)	<a href="#">Policy</a> • <a href="#">Procedures</a>
Rights and Responsibilities	Scholastic Offences (Undergraduate)	<a href="#">Policy</a> • <a href="#">Procedures</a>
Rights and Responsibilities	Senate Review Board Academic Appeals	<a href="#">Policy</a> • <a href="#">Procedures</a>