

Physiology and Pharmacology
Disease of Ion Channels – Physiology 4600A

Course Syllabus for Fall 2023 updated on Sept. 6, 2023



Western University is committed to a **thriving campus**; therefore, your health and wellness matter to us! The following link provides information about the resources available on and off campus to support students: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/> Your course coordinator can also **guide you** to resources and/or services should you need them.

1. **Technical Requirements:**



Stable internet connection



Laptop or computer



Working microphone



Working webcam

2. **Important Dates:**



Classes Begin	Classes End	
Thursday, September 7, 2023	Friday, December 8, 2023	
* November 12, 2022: Last day to drop a first-term half course without academic penalty		
Reading Week	Study day(s)	Exam Period
October 30–November 5	December 9	December 10–22

3. **Contact Information**



Course Coordinator	Contact Information
Donglin Bai	donglin.bai@schulich.uwo.ca
Instructor(s) or Teaching Assistant(s)	Contact Information
Wei-Yang Lu	wlu53@uwo.ca
Emma Graham	egraha59@uwo.ca

4. Course Description and Design

Delivery Mode: in-person

This is a 4th year course on ion channel related diseases, including congenital hearing loss, cataracts, cardiac arrhythmias, immunodeficiency, and some neurological diseases. We will cover physiology and pathophysiology of relevant ion channels.

Anti-requisite: None

Prerequisites: Physiology 3120 and Physiology 3140A.

2 lecture hours (lecture vs seminar approximately 3:2). 0.5 course

The course is taught by two professors and involves student participation through presentation and discussion of research papers. Evaluation of student performance will include a midterm test (32%), participation (5%), marks for presentation (20%), a written summary of the presentation (5%), and a final examination (38%). The final examination only focuses on Dr. Bai's section and therefore NOT cumulative. The midterm test and final examination will consist of fill in the blanks, draw diagrams/structure models, essay and short-answer style questions. PPT files of the lectures will be posted on OWL before each class. Questions regarding each lecture can be asked during or after each lecture in class or post in the forum on OWL. Similarly, questions to student presentations should be asked after the student presentation. Note that the timing of our midterm test will be during the class time, 2:30-4:20 on Wednesday, October 18th.



Papers to be used for student presentations will be distributed one week prior to presentation time (Wednesday afternoon). The scheduling of presentations will be through a process of time selection by students on OWL, but the final schedule will be determined by the course manager. There will be up to 18 papers presented. Two students will be paired up to present each paper. The presentation should be 20 minutes maximum, during which the objectives and background of the research, relevant experimental methodology and results, as well as summary of observations and conclusions are to be described. Two students should contribute equally to the presentation especially on results and discussion. Attention should focus on the physiological mechanisms studied. A question and answer period of 5~10 minutes will be conducted after each presentation moderated by the assigned Discussion Leaders. After the presentation, the presenters are required to submit a written summary of their talk to the instructor (MS Word file), to be corrected and posted on the web site. The summary should be less than 2 pages (no less than 12 point font size), containing hypothesis, objectives, brief methods and main results of the paper. Students who wrote a poor summary or did not submit a summary by the next Monday after their presentation will lose part of the marks (maximum 5%). Power-point or equivalent should be used for student presentation.

Timetabled Sessions

Component	Date(s)	Time

Attendance at sessions is required

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 your browsers frequently. Students interested in evaluating their internet speed, please click [here](#).

5. Learning Outcomes



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

- understand/explain the mechanisms of channel physiology and how diseases are related to ion channel function
- effectively present original research papers

6. Course Content and Schedule

Wednesdays, 2:30 – 4:20 pm, in DSB 2016



Week	Dates	Topic	Instructor
1	Sept 13	Introduction and how to present scientific papers	Bai
		Lecture on calcium-release activated calcium (CRAC) channels	Lu
2	Sept 20	Lecture on other store-operated calcium channels (2 papers)	Lu
3	Sept 27	Lecture on CRAC channels related immune deficiency (2 papers)	Lu
4	Oct 4	Lecture on implications of TRPC channel for Neurological Diseases (2 paper)	Lu
5	Oct 11	(2 papers) Session review	Lu
6	Oct 18	Midterm test	Lu / Bai
7	Oct 25	Lectures on gap junction and methods of measurement	Bai
8	Nov 1	Reading Week	N/A
9	Nov 8	Lecture on GJ function and diseases (2 papers)	Bai
10	Nov 15	(2 papers) Lecture on mechanisms of GJ diseases	Bai
11	Nov 22	(4 papers)	Bai
12	Nov 29	(2 papers) Lecture on GJ structure and gating	Bai
13	Dec 6	Review lectures	Bai
14	Dec 10-22	Final exam date TBA	Bai / Lu

7. Participation and Engagement



- Students are expected to participate and engage with content as much as possible
- Students can participate during lecture, in class discussion, and student presentation sessions
- Students can also participate by interacting in the forums with their peers and instructors

8. Evaluation

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

Assessment	Format	Weighting	Due Date
Midterm test	Fill in the blanks, draw diagrams/structure models, short answer, essay questions	32%	Oct. 18, 2023
Final examination	Fill in the blanks, draw diagrams/structure models, short answer, essay questions	38%	Dec. 10-22, 2023
Student presentation	PPT presentation	20%	See presentation schedule
Presentation summary	2-page summary of presented paper (Word)	5%	First Monday after your presentation
Participation	Present in all classes, being Discussion Leader for student presentation, asking 2 or more questions during student presentations	5%	See presentation schedule

- All assignments are due at 11:55 pm EST unless otherwise specified
- Students are responsible for ensuring that the correct file version is attached; incorrect submissions including corrupt files could be subject to late penalties (see below) or a 0
- Written assignments will be submitted to Turnitin (statement in policies below)
- A student might not receive the same grade as their group members if it is determined that the distribution of work was not equal or different presentation skills
- 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
- Any grade appeals on evaluations must be received within 3 weeks of the grade being posted.

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.

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

Information about late or missed evaluations:

- Late assessments without accommodation will be subject to a late penalty 50%/day
- Participation (5%) includes asking ≥ 2 questions per term which you could do at any time within the term, but another part of participation is to be Discussion Leader at an assigned spot, which if missed could only be fulfilled if an empty spot becomes available. Written summary 5% is due on Monday after your presentation week, which could be extended for another two days with valid reasons.
- One make-up test for midterm/final will be offered for eligible students, arranged by the department secretary. If the midterm/final makeup is also missed with accommodations, then they will receive an INC and have to take the missed exam(s) in the following year to finish the course.



INC (Incomplete Standing): If a student has been approved by the Academic Counselling Office (in consultation with the instructor/department) to complete term work at a later date, an INC will be assigned. 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 Counselling 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 Counselling 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 exam or the student misses the makeup exam for reasons approved by the Academic Counselling Office, the student will write the exam the next time the course is offered. Outstanding SPCs will reduce the course load for the term the exam is deferred as outlined in [Types of Examinations](#) policy.

9. Communication:

- Students should check the OWL 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
- 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 as needed in-person or remotely using Zoom



11. Resources

- All resources will be posted in OWL



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 (e.g., Must Knows Facebook group, Course Hero, Chegg, 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 to ensure you have seen everything posted to help you succeed in this class.
3. 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.
4. Connect with others. Try forming an online study group and try meeting on a weekly basis for study and peer support.
5. 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).
6. 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 and Statements

Absence from Course Commitments

A. Absence for medical illness:

Students must familiarize themselves with the [Accommodation for Illness Policy](#).

A student seeking academic accommodation for any **work worth less than 10%** must contact the instructor or follow the appropriate Department or course specific instructions provided on the course outline. Instructors will use good judgment and ensure fair treatment for all students when considering these requests. You are not required to disclose details about your situation to your instructor; documentation is not required in this situation, and you should not send any pictures to your instructor.

If you are unable to meet a course requirement for any **work worth 10% or greater** due to illness or other serious circumstances, you must provide valid medical or other supporting documentation to the Academic Counselling as soon as possible and contact your instructor immediately. It is the student's responsibility to make alternative arrangements with their instructor once the accommodation has been approved and the instructor has been informed. Please note that the format of a make-up test, exam, or assignment is at the discretion of the course coordinator.

A student requiring academic accommodation due to illness should use the Student Medical Certificate when visiting an off-campus medical facility or request a Record's Release Form (located in the Dean's Office) for visits to Student Health Services. The form can be found at: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

B. Absence for non-medical reasons:

Student absences might also be approved for non-medical reasons such as religious holidays and compassionate situations. Please review the policy on [Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#). All non-medical requests must be processed by Academic Counselling. Not all absences will be approved; pay attention to the academic calendar and final exam period when booking any trips.

C. 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 Offenses

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](#).

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. The details of this policy and the deadlines can be found [here](#).

Turnitin and other similarity review software

All assignments will 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).

15. BMSUE Academic Policies and Statements

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, i.e., cell phones, tablets, cameras, smart glasses or iPods 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. Non-programmable calculators are only allowed when indicated by the instructor. The program is not responsible for stolen/lost or broken devices.

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.

Use of ChatGPT and other Artificial Intelligence (AI) Platforms Statement

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 and/or lab reports 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.

16. Support Services

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

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

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.

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

[Appeal Procedures](#)

[Registrarial Services](#)

[Student Development Services](#)

[Student Health Services](#)