

2026 Spring Molecular Biology Courses

Class No.	Course No.	Title	Instructor	Day / Time / Room	Cr. Hrs.	Semester
1002	MBIOL 6200	Critical Thinking in Research	Charles Murtaugh & Helena Safavi	T, TH / 3:00PM – 5:00PM / EHSEB 1750	2.0	First Half
In order to teach the skills required to be a successful independent scientist this course will teach students critical thinking strategies for successful research. This will include how to digest and analyze papers and problem solve, both of which will review and apply material from core courses. The instructors will develop specific course content. Topics may include: How to read a paper (read at home, discuss in class); Survey of the core services; Problem solving with open-ended problems posed on real-life or made-up situations. A focused effort will be made to help students identify topics that they can develop into grants in the Spring term. Grading will be based on participation and individual work.						
You will receive a permission code to register for MBIOL 6200						
1004	MBIOL 6300	Guided Proposal Preparation	Demian Cazalla, Jessica Osterhout, & Eric Schmidt	T, TH / 3:00PM – 5:00PM / Various Rooms	2.0	Second Half
To prepare students for their thesis research, prelims, and qualifying exams, we will offer a guided proposal preparation course in the second half of the Spring semester that builds on their experience earlier in the semester (critical thinking in research, reading of primary literature and problem solving). The guided proposal writing course will provide an opportunity for students to create an original research proposal by critical review of other grants, training in hypothesis generation, scientific writing, and experimental design. The written original grant proposal will be used as a basis for an oral qualifying examination by a faculty committee.						
You will receive a permission code to register for MBIOL 6300						
1008	MBIOL 7960	Research Lab Rotation	-	International Students: 3.0 US Citizen: 2.0		
Laboratory rotations for students in the Graduate Program in Molecular Biology. A signed Rotation Verification Form and a copy of the rotation report must be submitted to the Program Office in order to receive a credit.						
US Citizens, please adjust the credit hour to 2.0. / International Students, please adjust the credit hour to 3.0						
Choose 2 electives (see elective list)						
Students must be registered full time for between 9-12 graduate credit hours. Electives vary by year and semester and many are taught every other year.						
For the purposes of this requirement, a half-semester course is defined as up to two (2) credits, and a full semester course is defined ≥ two-point-five (2.5) credits.						
Choose 2 different Electives during the semester (1.5 -2 credits each, 3-4 credits total).						

*** Classroom assignments may change between the time you register and when classes begin. Please check your class schedule for the latest classroom location information before attending class.**