

MGY480Y1 Y

Special Research Project

Fall 2025 - Winter 2026 Syllabus

Course Meetings

MGY480Y1 Y

Section	Day & Time	Delivery Mode & Location
LEC0101	To Be Announced	In Person : To Be Announced

Refer to ACORN for the most up-to-date information about the location of the course meetings.

Course Contacts

Coordinator: Marc Meneghini

Email: marc.meneghini@utoronto.ca

Course Overview

An opportunity for specialized individual research in molecular genetics and microbiology by arrangement with the course coordinator. Students are required to perform an original research project and attend relevant research seminars. Not eligible for CR/NCR option.

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Prerequisites: (MGY314H1/MGY315H1/MGY379Y1/MGY380H1/MGY381H1),
(MGY311Y1/BCH311H1/CSB349H1)

Corequisites: None

Exclusions: None

Recommended Preparation: None

Credit Value: 1

Marking Scheme

Assessment	Percent	Details	Due Date
Research proposal	5%	The proposal should be 1 single-spaced page (not including references) with 12-point font	2025-10-04

Assessment	Percent	Details	Due Date
		and .75-inch margins. It should contain: 1. A brief descriptive title, 2. an abstract of no more than 150 words, 3. 2-3 paragraphs explaining the project and your research objectives. This section should provide the relevant background and rationale as well as your proposed line of experimentation. A small figure is permitted but must be embedded within the text and counts towards the 1-page limit. The proposal should be referenced, and these should be attached as a 2nd page.	
Midterm report	20%	The Midterm report addresses the progress you have attained through the Fall term. It should contain 3 sections: Introduction, Results and Methods, and Discussion. A formal methods section is not needed here, but enough experimental detail should be included for the reader to follow along. The report should include a discussion of the work you intend to do for the remainder of the course. It should be a maximum of 5 pages. The format is 12-point font, 1.5x spaced, and .75-inch margins. Figures, tables, and references should appear as additional pages that will not count towards the 5-page maximum.	2025-12-22
Thesis	30%	Use 1.5x spacing and 12-point font throughout (except for figure/table legends, which use single spacing). Title: 15 word maximum Authors: list all contributors. Although it is expected that the bulk of the	2025-03-31

Assessment	Percent	Details	Due Date
		<p>reported work is your own, it is understandable that some reporting of other results may be important. Use the author list to include other such contributors, and be sure to specify them in the text. Summary: A single paragraph of no more than 150 words summarizing your work. Introduction/Results/Discussion: Break up the body of your thesis into these three sections. Use a maximum of 50000 characters. Methods: Sufficient detail needed for an independent researcher to replicate your findings is essential. Break this up into subsections as required. Figures and Tables: Figures and tables, with their legends, may be embedded in the body of the thesis or included at the end at your discretion. Figure legends do not count towards the character limit. References: Use the Nature referencing style.</p>	
Oral defense	25%	<p>Oral examinations will be held during the final examination period (April 10-30). Once the final examination schedules are available, we will schedule each of your exams for you in such a way that it does not conflict with your other exams. You will be assigned an examination committee consisting of your supervisor and 2-3 other professors (who supervise other MGY480 students). The 3-4 professor committees will evaluate your written thesis and your oral defense of it. The oral exam will consist of a 10-minute</p>	No Specific Date

Assessment	Percent	Details	Due Date
		presentation of your work followed by 15-20 minutes of questions from your examination committee. More granular information will be provided in late March/early April once we have gotten all the scheduling done.	
Lab performance	20%	This mark comes from the supervisor and is based on his/her assessment of the students performance in the lab over the course of the year	No Specific Date

Late Assessment Submissions Policy