

MICROBIOLOGY (MICR)

Courses

MICR 4000. Special Topic. 4 Credit Hours.

This is a self-designed course created by both the student and the department to cover a specific topic. A Course Approval Form must be completed along with documentation of the designed course description.

MICR 4002. Advanced Medical Microbiology. 4 Credit Hours.

This elective is available to selected fourth-year students. Responsibilities during the period would include 1) the reading of 20-25 short articles out of Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Reports (generally 5-7 pages each), so as to be prepared to 2) lead discussions as MS1 students present summaries of these articles (1 article per student in a small group setting). In addition to enriching the curriculum of the first-year class, this elective will provide the MS4 student with the opportunity to be updated on some of the most current issues of the day in areas of infectious disease.

MICR 5003. Core Concepts In Microbiology & Immunology. 4 Credit Hours.

This course will provide an integrated view of the microbial world and the mammalian immune response. Students will receive a foundation in the basic concepts and experimental approaches that are crucial for understanding core concepts in pathogenic microbiology, virology, parasitology, mycology, and immunology through directed readings and didactic instruction. A special emphasis will be placed on integrating knowledge from each discipline using specific examples to illustrate important concepts in host-pathogen interaction.

MICR 5025. Eukaryotic Pathogens. 1 Credit Hour.

The course will provide students with the opportunity to gain a basic comprehensive understanding of parasitology and mycology. The first part of this course will focus on virulence mechanisms and the host immune response with respect to a variety of parasites that cause major human diseases. The second part of this course will cover several important areas of medical mycology including molecular biology, diagnostic/epidemiology, mating/phenotypic switching, morphology, pathogenesis, and antifungal therapies.

MICR 5026. Bacterial Pathogenesis. 1 Credit Hour.

This is an introductory course in microbial pathogenesis focusing on bacterial pathogens that are important in human disease. Students will receive a foundation in the basic concepts and experimental approaches that are crucial for understanding the discipline through directed readings and didactic instruction. Specific concepts, strategies, and mechanisms used by human bacterial pathogens to cause disease will be illustrated.

MICR 5027. Immunology. 1 Credit Hour.

MICR5027 is designed to build on the immunological concepts covered in MICR 5051 given in the Fall semester and to put those concepts to use as we focus on understanding the world of the mammalian host response to infection and on applying fundamental immunological concepts to the understanding of current immunological research questions in a student-presentation and in-class discussion format. Prerequisite: MICR5051.

MICR 5028. Virology. 1 Credit Hour.

This course focuses on the molecular and cellular biology of animal viruses, and their interactions with host cells. Many of the viruses to be covered in this course are medically significant or have provided critical information that has expanded our understanding of cell biology, immunology, development, and differentiation.

MICR 5029. Building Scientific Thinking Skills. 2 Credit Hours.

The goal of this course is to provide the opportunity for graduate students to develop critical thinking skills in reading scientific literature, developing/critiquing scientific ideas and grant proposals and effectively communicating one's own scientific ideas with peers. The courses will be offered in three consecutive stages. First, each student will be assigned/encouraged to read articles focusing on a topic in the areas of Microbiology and Immunology and give a 50 minute review presentation on the topic to the class followed by questions/critiques from fellow students and faculty members. Second, each student is guided to develop a mini-proposal on a chosen topic followed by written critiques from fellow students and faculty members. Finally, each student is arranged to give an oral defense of his or her written proposal to the class followed by questions from fellow students and faculty members. Since the proposal writing and defense portions mimic the process involved in M&I track qualification examination, this course will not only have a long lasting impact on the students' scientific skill development, but also help prepare the students for the immediate qualification examination.

MICR 5030. Microbiology And Immunology Track Journal Clubs. 0.5 Credit Hours.

The MI track students, together with faculty members and other researchers, will meet once a week to discuss articles on life science with an emphasis on the Microbiology and Immunology disciplines. At each meeting, an individual will present one or several papers, or a review and related materials. The presentation will be followed by questions and discussions involving everyone present at the meeting. Each meeting is scheduled for one hour.

MICR 5031. Pathogenic Microbiology. 3 Credit Hours.

This lecture-only course integrates different disciplines (immunology, cell biology, genetics, biochemistry, molecular biology, physiology, and medical microbiology) with a central theme focused on molecular mechanisms of microbial pathogenesis in humans. Recommended prerequisites for this course are Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

MICR 5035. Emerging Trends in Immunology and Infection. 2 Credit Hours.

An intense and advanced exploration of the primary literature focusing on the latest emerging trends in immunological research. The format will allow students to develop skills of in depth critical analysis and will involve a combination of student presentations of current data and discussions of the historical development and evolution of new directions in immunological research.

MICR 5051. Intro To Immunology. 2 Credit Hours.

This course is a study of immune responses with emphasis on experimental strategies for elucidating cellular and molecular mechanisms. Three phases of study: (1) immunochemistry and molecular biology of antibodies, lymphocyte receptors, and products of the major histocompatibility complex; (2) cellular interactions and immunoregulation; and (3) immunopathologies (hypersensitivity, autoimmunity, immunodeficiency, transplantation rejection, and tumor immunology). Prerequisites: consent of instructor, courses in General Biology and Genetics recommended.

MICR 5090. Acquiring Presentation Skills. 1 Credit Hour.

This course is designed to prepare the student for giving a scientific lecture or seminar. Students present at least one lecture per academic year. Each student is coached and evaluated by faculty members in terms of both effective public speaking and critically analyzing scientific data. In addition, the seminars are videotaped. Students are required to attend all seminars.

MICR 5091. Current Topics In Microbiology And Immunology. 0.5-3 Credit Hours.

Students will be given an opportunity to gain in-depth understanding of selected topics in microbiology and immunology through a combination of library research and discussion with faculty. Prerequisites: consent of instructor.

MICR 5092. Special Problems. 1-9 Credit Hours.

The course provides an opportunity for the student to engage in a special research project or to develop proficiency in the use of certain laboratory methods. Prerequisites: consent of instructor.

MICR 5095. Current Topics in Immunobiology and Host-microbe Interactions. 1 Credit Hour.

This course is designed to enhance and expand on the existing Acquiring Presentation Skills (APS) course (MICR 5090) that is required of all graduate students in the Infection, Inflammation, & Immunity discipline of the IBMS Graduate Program, and the Ph.D. students of the Microbiology & Immunology Graduate Program. Although the APS course allows students to gain experience with regard to making formal lecture presentations of their research, it is limited in that students present their work only once a year, the opportunity for full discussion is limited by the time available after presentations, and being a course in which participants are exclusively students, there are no opportunities to observe examples of how skilled seasoned investigators (i.e., faculty and postdoctoral fellows) present their work. In the currently proposed course, graduate students will not only have more frequent opportunities to present their own research and receive vital feedback and critiques, but will also hear and critique presentations by more senior investigators regarding projects performed in labs throughout the Department of Microbiology & Immunology.

MICR 6022. Advanced Microbial Physiology. 2 Credit Hours.

This course consists of readings and conferences. The course includes current concepts and experimental studies in microbial structure-function relationships and regulatory mechanisms. Prerequisites: consent of instructor.

MICR 6024. Advanced Microbial Genetics. 1-4 Credit Hours.

This course consists of lectures and conferences. This course is an in-depth study of selected areas of microbial genetics, and presentation and discussion of current literature in these areas. Prerequisites: Consent of instructor.

MICR 6026. Advanced Molecular Genetics Of Eukaryotic Pathogens. 2 Credit Hours.

This course will cover the major research methods and techniques used to study human fungal pathogens.

MICR 6043. Advanced Topics In Virology. 2 Credit Hours.

This course is an in-depth study of selected topics in animal virology at the molecular level. Prerequisites: consent of instructor.

MICR 6050. Advanced Topics In Tumor Immunology. 1 Credit Hour.

This course provides an opportunity for students to gain a solid foundation in modern tumor immunology. Topics include tumor antigens, autoimmunity, mechanisms of killing, dysregulation of inflammation, and counter measures mediated by tumor to thwart or subvert host immunity.

MICR 6052. Advanced Immunobiology. 3 Credit Hours.

This course consists of lectures only. This course is an in-depth study of the immune system and how it is regulated, including presentation and discussion of current literature in these areas. Prerequisites: MICR 5051 or consent of instructor.

MICR 6071. Supervised Teaching. 1-9 Credit Hours.

This course consists of teaching under the close supervision of instructors as laboratory assistants and as leaders in tutorial or review sessions. The more advanced students may present formal lectures in the classroom or lead discussions in the laboratory. Prerequisites: consent of chair or department.

MICR 6091. Seminars In Microbiology & Immunology. 1 Credit Hour.

Presentations and discussions of recent advances in various areas of Microbiology & Immunology. Invited speakers may be from inside or outside the HSC. Each graduate student in the M&I Track is expected to register for this course each fall and each spring semester for as long as the student is enrolled in graduate school.

MICR 6097. Research. 1-12 Credit Hours.

This course consists of independent, original research under the direction of faculty advisor. May be conducted in bacteriology, virology, mycology, parasitology, and immunology.

MICR 6098. Thesis. 1-12 Credit Hours.

Registration for at least one term is required of M.S. candidates. Admission to candidacy for the Master of Science degree is required.

MICR 7099. Dissertation. 1-12 Credit Hours.

Registration for at least two terms is required of Ph.D. candidates. In addition, Ph.D. candidates may be required to complete a course in Biostatistics. Prerequisites: Admission to candidacy for the Doctor of Philosophy degree.