MOLECULAR, CELLULAR, AND DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY

Director of undergraduate studies: Douglas Kankel, 1220B KBT, 432-3839, crystal.adamchek@yale.edu; mcdb.yale.edu/

FACULTY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MOLECULAR, CELLULAR, AND DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY

Professors Robert Bazell (Adjunct), Ronald Breaker, John Carlson, † Lynn Cooley, Craig Crews, Stephen Dellaporta, Paul Forscher, Jo Handelsman, † Mark Hochstrasser, Vivian Irish, † Akiko Iwasaki, Christine Jacobs-Wagner, Douglas Kankel, † Paula Kathvas, Haig Keshishian, Mark Mooseker, Thomas Pollard, Anna Pyle, Joel Rosenbaum, † Alanna Schepartz, † Hugh Taylor, Robert Wyman

Associate Professors Thierry Emonet, Scott Holley, Valerie Horsley, Weimin Zhong

Assistant Professors Murat Acar, Shirin Bahmanyar, † Sreeganga Chandra, Damon Clark, Nicole Clay, Nadya Dimitrova, Joshua Gendron, Farren Isaacs, Yannick Jacob, † Kathryn Miller-Jensen, † Matthew Rodeheffer, Josein Van Wolfswinkel

Lecturers †Alexia Belperron, Surjit Chandhoke, Iain Dawson, Samantha Lin, Maria Moreno, Kenneth Nelson, Joseph Wolenski
† A joint appointment with primary affiliation in another department or school.

The science of biology is extremely broad, ranging across the domains of molecules, cells, tissues and organs, organisms, and ecosystems. Moreover, biology explores questions of evolutionary history and the processes of evolutionary change as well as the mechanisms by which cells, organisms, and ecosystems function. Students majoring in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology receive a thorough yet varied liberal education and preparation for professional careers in a diverse array of fields. Practical applications of biology include the development of biologicals and pharmaceuticals, the practice of medicine, and the pursuit of the scientific bases for understanding the development and function of biological systems.

Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology (MCDB) offers programs for students wishing to concentrate on molecular and cellular biology and genetics, with applications to problems in cell and developmental biology, neurobiology, and various aspects of computational biology. Interdisciplinary opportunities are available within the major in the Biotechnology, Neurobiology, and Quantitative Biology tracks.

The MCDB major offers many opportunities for independent laboratory research. With approval, research can be conducted under the supervision of faculty members in any Yale department. Some programs for study abroad are available to MCDB majors; approved programs can fulfill some of the requirements for the major. Interested students should consult the director of undergraduate studies and the Center for International and Professional Experience (http://cipe.yalecollege.yale.edu).

The prerequisites for the B.S. degree fulfill most of the usual premedical science requirements. Students who choose the B.A. degree can also prepare for medical school by taking additional premedical courses.

Placement Placement in MCDB courses is determined by examinations administered at Yale. A student may place out of one or more courses in the BIOL 101–104 sequence; however, one or more of these foundational biology courses may be explicitly required as prerequisites for upper-level MCDB courses.

Placement in chemistry courses is arranged by the Chemistry department. Because required chemistry courses are prerequisite to several MCDB courses, students are strongly encouraged to take general and organic chemistry in the freshman and/or sophomore years. Students who place out of general chemistry may want to consider taking organic chemistry during the freshman year. Finishing the prerequisites early allows for a more flexible program in later years.

Prerequisites The foundational biology courses required of all MCDB majors are BIOL 101, 102, 103, and 104. All majors must also complete a course in mathematics numbered MATH 115 or higher (excluding MATH 190) or a statistics course taken at Yale. For the B.A. degree, additional prerequisites are a two-term lecture sequence in chemistry, and a term course in physics numbered PHYS 170 or higher. For the B.S. degree, additional prerequisites are a two-term lecture sequence in chemistry, with associated laboratories; a term course in organic chemistry with its associated laboratory; and two term courses in physics numbered PHYS 170 or higher.

Acceleration credit awarded in chemistry, mathematics, or physics, or completion of advanced courses in those subjects, is accepted in place of the corresponding prerequisites for the MCDB major. Students who have mathematics preparation equivalent to MATH 115 or higher are encouraged to take additional mathematics courses, such as MATH 120, MATH 121, 222, or 225, or ENAS 151 or 154. Students in the B.A. degree program who have satisfied one or more prerequisites with advanced placement must still complete three term courses in chemistry and physics at Yale, including at least one from each department.

Requirements of the major for the Class of 2017 Students in the Class of 2017 may fulfill the requirements of the major that were in place when they entered the major, as described in previous editions of this bulletin (http://www.yale.edu/printer/bulletin/archivedpdfsfiles/YCPS). Alternatively, they may fulfill the requirements for the major as described below for the Class of 2018 and subsequent classes.
B.A. degree for the Class of 2018 and subsequent classes  The B.A. degree requires a minimum of five and one-half course credits beyond the prerequisites, including five lecture or seminar courses and one laboratory, as follows:

1. Two core courses selected from MCDB 200, 202, 205, 210, 290, 300 (or MB&B 300), MCDB 310, 320, 430
2. Two general electives selected from MCDB courses numbered 240 or above, or two additional core courses from the list above. Two laboratory courses, either MCDB 342L and 343L or MCDB 344L and 345L, can be paired for a single elective credit. If used as an elective, these laboratories cannot also fulfill the laboratory requirement
3. One special elective selected from MCDB courses numbered 350 or higher
4. One laboratory from the biological sciences. Laboratories may be selected from MCDB, or Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, or Molecular Biology and Biophysics, or, with permission of the director of undergraduate studies, Anthropology
5. The senior requirement, described below

B.S. degree for the Class of 2018 and subsequent classes  The B.S. degree requires a minimum of nine course credits beyond the prerequisites, including eight lecture or seminar courses and two laboratories, as follows:

1. Three core courses selected from MCDB 200, 202, 205, 210, 290, 300 (or MB&B 300), MCDB 310, 320, 430
2. Two general electives selected from MCDB courses numbered 240 or above. Additional core courses from the list above, a second term of organic chemistry, and courses in statistics may be used as general electives. Two laboratory courses, either MCDB 342L and 343L or MCDB 344L and 345L, can be paired for a single elective credit. If used as an elective, these laboratories cannot also fulfill the laboratory requirement
3. One special elective from MCDB courses numbered 350 or higher
4. Two laboratories from MCDB
5. The senior requirement, described below

Credit/D/Fail No course taken Credit/D/Fail may be counted toward the MCDB major, including prerequisites.

Selection of courses  A relevant intermediate or advanced course from another department in science, engineering, mathematics, or statistics may be accepted as an elective with permission of the director of undergraduate studies. Many courses in other departments have prerequisites; such prerequisites can be substituted for an upper-level elective with permission of the director of undergraduate studies.

Residential college seminars cannot be substituted for electives and do not count toward the requirements of the major. The MCDB major should not be taken as one of two majors with Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry or with Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

Senior requirement  In addition to the course requirements described above, all students must satisfy a senior requirement undertaken during the senior year. A booklet listing the senior requirements of each track and degree is available in the office of the director of undergraduate studies (120B KBT). All students must fill out a checklist of requirements and go over it with the undergraduate registrar, Crystal Adamchek (crystal.adamchek@yale.edu), by the spring term of the junior year.

For the B.A. degree, the senior requirement can be met either by submitting a senior essay of fifteen to twenty pages evaluating current research in a field of biology, or by successful completion of one term of individual research (MCDB 475). A senior choosing to fulfill the requirement with a senior essay must consult with a faculty adviser on the scope and literature of the topic and submit the adviser’s written approval to the director of undergraduate studies no later than the course selection period of the term in which the paper is due. The senior essay may be related to the subject matter of a course, but the essay is a separate departmental requirement in addition to any work done in a course and does not count toward the grade in any course. The senior essay must be completed and submitted to the office of the director of undergraduate studies by the last day of classes. Students electing this option should obtain an approval form from the office of the director of undergraduate studies.

For the B.S. degree, the senior requirement is usually fulfilled by completing a yearlong research course, MCDB 485, 486. Alternatively, a student can take two consecutive terms of MCDB 475. With permission of the director of undergraduate studies, students taking two terms of MCDB 475 can begin the project during the spring term of the junior year, continue it over the summer, and complete it during the fall term of the senior year. In all other cases, the senior requirement must be completed during the senior year. Yale College does not grant academic credit for summer research unless the student is enrolled in an independent research course in Yale Summer Session. Seniors working toward the B.S. degree are expected to spend at least ten hours per week in the lab conducting individual research.

B.S. degree, intensive major  Requirements for the B.S. degree with an intensive major are the same as those for the B.S. degree except that students fulfill the senior requirement by taking MCDB 495, 496, Intensive Research, for four course credits. Seniors in the intensive major are expected to spend at least twenty hours per week in the lab conducting individual research.

Neurobiology track  In addition to the core courses for the standard major, the Neurobiology track requires the additional core course MCDB 320. One elective is selected from MCDB courses numbered 350 or above and one is selected from BENG 410, CPSC 475, MCDB 240, 310, 315, 415, 430, MCDB 440, PSYC 200, 270, or STAT 101. Other courses may be substituted with the approval of the student’s track adviser. (Students should note that PSYC 110 is a prerequisite for many psychology courses but does not substitute as an elective in the Neurobiology track.) The laboratory requirement and the senior requirement are the same as those for the standard major. Students interested in the Neurobiology track should consult an adviser for the track.
Students must also satisfy the requirements of Yale College for the simultaneous award of the bachelor’s and master’s degrees, including completing a course of study leading to the simultaneous award of the B.S. and M.S. degrees after eight terms of enrollment. It is possible to earn both degrees in fewer than eight terms, but not by the use of acceleration credits. The requirements are as follows:

**Combined B.S./M.S. degree program** Exceptionally able and well-prepared students may accelerate their professional education by completing a course of study leading to the simultaneous award of the B.S. and M.S. degrees after eight terms of enrollment. Students may not enroll in Yale College for more than eight terms in order to qualify for the simultaneous award of both degrees. It is possible to earn both degrees in fewer than eight terms, but not by the use of acceleration credits. The requirements are as follows:

1. Candidates must satisfy the Yale College requirements for the B.S. degree. Students in the program must complete the core courses for the major and choose their electives from graduate-level courses. One of the electives must be a graduate seminar selected with the approval of the director of undergraduate studies. Grades below B– in graduate courses are not accepted.

2. In addition to the courses specified above, students must complete two graduate research courses for six course credits: (a) MCDB 585, a two-credit course taken in the second term of the junior year. At the start of the course, each student forms a committee comprised of the faculty adviser and two faculty members that meets to discuss the research project. Two of the members of this committee must be members of the MCDB faculty. At the end of the course, the student completes a detailed prospectus describing the thesis project and the work completed to date. The committee evaluates an oral and written presentation of the prospectus and determines whether the student may continue in the combined program; (b) MCDB 595, a four-credit, yearlong course that is similar to MCDB 496, 496 and is taken during the senior year. During the course, the student gives an oral presentation describing the work. At the end of the course, the student is expected to present his or her work to the department in the form of a poster presentation. In addition, the student is expected to give an oral thesis defense, followed by a comprehensive examination of the thesis conducted by the thesis committee. Upon successful completion of this examination, as well as all other requirements, the student is awarded the combined B.S./M.S. degree.

Students must also satisfy the requirements of Yale College for the simultaneous award of the bachelor’s and master’s degrees, including the following:

1. To be considered for admission to the program, by the end of their fifth term of enrollment students must have achieved at least two-thirds A or A– grades in all of their courses as well as in all of the courses directly relating to the major, including prerequisites.

**Biotechnology track** In addition to the core courses for the standard major, the Biotechnology track requires the additional core course MCDB 370. One elective is selected from MCDB courses numbered 350 or above and one is selected from MB&B 420, MB&B 421, 443, BENG 351, 352, 410, 435, BENG 437, BENG 464, CENG 210, 411, CENG 412, CPSC 437, 445, 470, or 475. The laboratory requirement and the senior requirement are the same as those for the standard major. Students interested in the Biotechnology track should consult an adviser for the track.

**Biotechnology track advisers**
- R. Breaker, 506 KBT (432-9389)
- K. Nelson, 710A KBT (432-5013)
- J. Wolenski, 330 KBT (432-6912)

**Quantitative Biology track** In addition to the core courses for the standard major, the Quantitative Biology track requires the additional core course MCDB 261. One elective is selected from MCDB courses numbered 350 or above and one is selected from MCDB 320, 361, 461, BENG 467, MB&B 302, 435, 452, 523, PHYS 402, MATH 246, 251, CPSC 440, 475, or CENG 320. The laboratory requirement and the senior requirement are the same as those for the standard major. Students interested in the Quantitative Biology track should consult an adviser for the track.

**Quantitative Biology track advisers**
- T. Emonet, 1048 KBT (432-3516)
- D. Clark, 224 KBT (432-0750)
- M. Acar, West Campus B-31 (737-3255)

**Independent research courses before senior year** The only independent research course available to students prior to the senior year is MCDB 443. This course is graded pass/fail and contributes to the thirty-six course credits required for the bachelor’s degree, but it does not substitute for any MCDB major requirement, including the senior requirement.

**Independent research courses during senior year** The research courses MCDB 475, 485, 486, and 495, 496 exist primarily to fulfill the senior requirement, and do not satisfy any other requirement for the major. Note that Yale College limits the number of independent study or independent research courses that students may take; see Course Credits and Course Loads (http://catalog.yale.edu/archive/2016-2017/ycps/academic-regulations/course-credits-course-loads) in the Academic Regulations (http://catalog.yale.edu/archive/2016-2017/ycps/academic-regulations). Any independent study course, regardless of its number, is included in the total.

No independent research course satisfies a laboratory requirement for the MCDB major.

**Neurobiology track advisers**
- P. Forscher, 222 KBT (432-6344)
- H. Keshishian, 640A KBT (432-3478)
- R. Wyman, 610A KBT (432-3475)
- W. Zhong, 616 KBT (432-9233)

**Biotechnology track advisers**
- R. Breaker, 506 KBT (432-9389)
- K. Nelson, 710A KBT (432-5013)
- J. Wolenski, 330 KBT (432-6912)

**Biotechnology track advisers**
- R. Breaker, 506 KBT (432-9389)
- K. Nelson, 710A KBT (432-5013)
- J. Wolenski, 330 KBT (432-6912)

**Quantitative Biology track advisers**
- T. Emonet, 1048 KBT (432-3516)
- D. Clark, 224 KBT (432-0750)
- M. Acar, West Campus B-31 (737-3255)

**Independent research courses before senior year** The only independent research course available to students prior to the senior year is MCDB 443. This course is graded pass/fail and contributes to the thirty-six course credits required for the bachelor’s degree, but it does not substitute for any MCDB major requirement, including the senior requirement.

**Independent research courses during senior year** The research courses MCDB 475, 485, 486, and 495, 496 exist primarily to fulfill the senior requirement, and do not satisfy any other requirement for the major. Note that Yale College limits the number of independent study or independent research courses that students may take; see Course Credits and Course Loads (http://catalog.yale.edu/archive/2016-2017/ycps/academic-regulations/course-credits-course-loads) in the Academic Regulations (http://catalog.yale.edu/archive/2016-2017/ycps/academic-regulations). Any independent study course, regardless of its number, is included in the total.

No independent research course satisfies a laboratory requirement for the MCDB major.

**Combined B.S./M.S. degree program** Exceptionally able and well-prepared students may accelerate their professional education by completing a course of study leading to the simultaneous award of the B.S. and M.S. degrees after eight terms of enrollment. Students may not enroll in Yale College for more than eight terms in order to qualify for the simultaneous award of both degrees. It is possible to earn both degrees in fewer than eight terms, but not by the use of acceleration credits. The requirements are as follows:

1. Candidates must satisfy the Yale College requirements for the B.S. degree. Students in the program must complete the core courses for the major and choose their electives from graduate-level courses. One of the electives must be a graduate seminar selected with the approval of the director of undergraduate studies. Grades below B– in graduate courses are not accepted.

2. In addition to the courses specified above, students must complete two graduate research courses for six course credits: (a) MCDB 585, a two-credit course taken in the second term of the junior year. At the start of the course, each student forms a committee comprised of the faculty adviser and two faculty members that meets to discuss the research project. Two of the members of this committee must be members of the MCDB faculty. At the end of the course, the student completes a detailed prospectus describing the thesis project and the work completed to date. The committee evaluates an oral and written presentation of the prospectus and determines whether the student may continue in the combined program; (b) MCDB 595, a four-credit, yearlong course that is similar to MCDB 496, 496 and is taken during the senior year. During the course, the student gives an oral presentation describing the work. At the end of the course, the student is expected to present his or her work to the department in the form of a poster presentation. In addition, the student is expected to give an oral thesis defense, followed by a comprehensive examination of the thesis conducted by the thesis committee. Upon successful completion of this examination, as well as all other requirements, the student is awarded the combined B.S./M.S. degree.

Students must also satisfy the requirements of Yale College for the simultaneous award of the bachelor’s and master’s degrees, including the following:

1. To be considered for admission to the program, by the end of their fifth term of enrollment students must have achieved at least two-thirds A or A– grades in all of their courses as well as in all of the courses directly relating to the major, including prerequisites.
2. Students must apply in writing to the director of undergraduate studies and obtain departmental approval no later than the last day of classes in their fifth term of enrollment in Yale College. Students must have the approval of both the director of undergraduate studies and the director of graduate studies to receive graduate credit for the graduate courses they select.

3. Graduate work must not be entirely concentrated in the final two terms, and students in the program must take at least six term courses outside the department during their last four terms at Yale and at least two undergraduate courses during their last two terms.

4. Students must earn grades of A in at least two of their graduate-level term courses (or in one yearlong course) and have at least a B average in the remaining ones.

For more information, see "Simultaneous Award of the Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees” under section K, Special Arrangements (http://catalog.yale.edu/archive/2016-2017/ycps/academic-regulations/special-arrangements), in the Academic Regulations.

Advising  Freshmen considering a major in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology are invited to consult with the director of undergraduate studies and/or a faculty member in MCDB who is a fellow of their residential college. For assistance in identifying a suitable adviser, students should contact the departmental undergraduate registrar, Crystal Adamchek (crystal.adamchek@yale.edu). Students in the Biotechnology, Neurobiology, or Quantitative Biology tracks should consult an adviser in their track (listed above). The course schedules of all MCDB majors (including sophomores intending to major in MCDB) must be signed by a faculty member in the department. The signature of the director of undergraduate studies is required only for students who are fulfilling the requirements of two majors or who have been admitted to the simultaneous B.S./M.S. degree program. Students whose regular adviser is on leave can consult the office of the director of undergraduate studies to arrange for an alternate.

Any faculty member with a primary appointment in the MCDB department can serve as a faculty adviser to majors. College faculty advisers available to freshmen are listed below.

| BK | J. Wolenski | MC | H. Keshishian, K. Nelson |
| BR | N. Clay, I. Dawson | PC | J. Carlson (F), C. Crews |
| CC | M. Mooseker, R. Wyman | SY | C. Jacobs-Wagner |
| DC | V. Irish, W. Zhong | SM | S. Dellaporta, D. Kankel, J. Rosenbaum |
| ES | To be announced | TD | S. Holley |
| JE | R. Breaker, T. Emonet, F. Isaacs | TC | To be announced |

**REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR**

**Prerequisites**  
B.A. — BIOI 101, 102, 103, 104; a two-term lecture sequence in chem; one term of PHYS 170 or above; MATH 115 or above (except MATH 190) or STAT course at Yale; B.S. — BIOI 101, 102, 103, 104; a two-term lecture sequence in chem, with labs, and 1 term of organic chem with lab; two terms of PHYS 170, 171 or above; MATH 115 or above (except MATH 190) or STAT course at Yale; all courses taken for letter grades

**Number of courses**  
B.A. — 5 courses and 1 lab, totaling at least 5½ course credits; B.S. — 8 courses and 2 labs, totaling at least 9 course credits; B.S., intensive major — 8 courses and 2 labs, totaling at least 11 course credits; all courses taken for letter grades

**Specific courses required**  
Biotechnology track — MCDB 370; Neurobiology track — MCDB 320; Quantitative Biology track — MCDB 261

**Distribution of courses**  
Standard track — B.A. — 2 core courses from MCDB 200, 202, 205, 210, 290, 300 (or MB&B 300), MCDB 310, 320, 430; 2 electives numbered MCDB 240 or above (or 2 addtl core courses); 1 elective numbered MCDB 350 or above; 1 biology lab;  
B.S. — 3 core courses from MCDB 200, 202, 205, 210, 290, 300 (or MB&B 300), MCDB 310, 320, 430; 2 electives numbered MCDB 240 or above (or 2 addtl core courses); 1 elective numbered MCDB 350 or above; 2 MCDB labs; Biotechnology, Neurobiology, and Quantitative Biology tracks — same as standard track, with 1 addtl elective

**Senior requirement**  
B.A. — MCDB 475 taken in senior year, or senior essay; B.S. — 2 consecutive terms of independent research, MCDB 485, 486 (preferred) or 2 consecutive terms of MCDB 475; B.S., intensive major — MCDB 495, 496 in senior year

---

**Introductory Courses**

Fundamentals of cell biology, Darwinian evolution, immunology, and genetics that underlie cancer; the history of cancer science and treatment; historical and current policy issues. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  SC

* **MCDB 040a, Immunology and Microbes**  Paula Kavathas  
Introduction to the immune system and its interaction with specific microbes. Attention both to microbes that cause illness, such as influenza, HIV, and HPV, and to microbes that live in harmony with humans, collectively called the microbiome. Readings include novels and historical works on diseases such as polio and AIDS. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  SC RP
* MCDB 103b, Cancer  Alexia Belperron
Introduction to the biology of cancer, with a focus on leukemia, skin cancer, and cancers linked to infection. Topics include genetics, biochemistry, immunity, infection agents, and challenges for prevention and treatment. Intended for non–science majors and underclassmen. High school biology required.  sc

MCDB 105a or b / MB&B 105a or b, An Issues Approach to Biology  Staff
Biological concepts taught in context of current societal issues, such as emerging diseases, genetically modified organisms, green energy, stem cell research, and human reproductive technology. Emphasis on biological literacy to enable students to evaluate scientific arguments.  sc

* MCDB 106a / E&EB 106a / HLTH 155a, Biology of Malaria, Lyme, and Other Vector-Borne Diseases  Alexia Belperron
Introduction to the biology of pathogen transmission from one organism to another by insects; special focus on malaria, dengue, and Lyme disease. Biology of the pathogens including modes of transmission, establishment of infection, and immune responses; the challenges associated with vector control, prevention, development of vaccines, and treatments. Intended for non–science majors; preference for freshmen and sophomores. Prerequisite: high school biology.  sc

* MCDB 109b, Immunity and Contagion  Paula Kavathas
Introduction to the basics of the immune system; strategies to fight pathogens while maintaining harmony with our microbiome. Discussion of specific microbes such as influenza, HIV, and HPV; historical analysis of the polio vaccine and the AIDS epidemic. Enrollment limited to freshmen and sophomores.  sc

Intermediate and Advanced Courses

MCDB 200b, Molecular Biology  Anna Pyle and Farren Isaacs
A study of the fundamental principles of molecular biology, including the experimental methodologies used in biological research. Topics include the structure, function, and chemical behavior of biological macromolecules (DNA, RNA, and protein), chromosome and genome organization, replication and maintenance of the genome, transcriptional and translational regulation, microRNAs and other noncoding RNAs, RNA processing, systems biology, and synthetic biology. Designed to provide an accelerated venue for MCDB majors and other students seeking to understand the molecular basis for gene expression and the resultant implications for medicine and biological engineering. Prerequisites: CHEM 161, 165, or 167 (or CHEM 112, 114, or 118), and BIOL 101 or permission of instructor.  sc
Psychology: AdvSci NeuroTrk

* MCDB 201Lb, Molecular Biology Laboratory  Maria Moreno
Basic molecular biology training in a project-based laboratory setting. Experiments analyze gene function through techniques of PCR, plasmid and cDNA cloning, DNA sequence analysis, and protein expression and purification. Instruction in experimental design, data analysis, and interpretation. Concurrently with or after MCDB 200, or with permission from instructor. For freshmen and sophomores interested in research integrated laboratory experience. Special registration procedures apply. Interested students must contact the instructor and attend an organizational meeting during the first week of classes.  WR, sc ½ Course cr

* MCDB 202a, Genetics  Stephen Dellaporta and Murat Acar
An introduction to classical, molecular, and population genetics of both prokaryotes and eukaryotes and their central importance in biological sciences. Emphasis on analytical approaches and techniques of genetics used to investigate mechanisms of heredity and variation. Topics include transmission genetics, cytogenetics, DNA structure and function, recombination, gene mutation, selection, and recombinant DNA technology. Prerequisite: BIOL 103 or equivalent performance on the corresponding biological sciences placement examination.  sc

* MCDB 203La, Laboratory for Genetics  Iain Dawson
Introduction to laboratory techniques used in genetic analysis. Genetic model organisms—bacteria, yeast, Drosophila, and Arabidopsis—are used to provide practical experience with various classical and molecular genetic techniques including cytogenetics; complementation, epistasis, and genetic suppressors; mutagenesis and mutant analysis, recombination and gene mapping, isolation and manipulation of DNA, and transformation of model organisms. Concurrently with or after MCDB 202.  sc

MCDB 205b, Cell Biology  Thomas Pollard and Megan King
A comprehensive introductory course in cell biology. Emphasis on the general principles that explain the molecular mechanisms of cellular function. Prerequisites: BIOL 101 and 102, or equivalent performance on the corresponding biological sciences placement examinations, or a score of 5 on the Advanced Placement test in Biology, or a score of 710 or above on the SAT Biology M test, or MCDB 200.  sc

* MCDB 210a, Developmental Biology  Scott Holley, Douglas Kankel, and Vivian Irish
Cellular differentiation and its genetic and molecular control; fertilization, cleavage, and morphogenesis of plants and animals; polarity and positional information; organogenesis and development of specialized tissues; evolution and development. Prerequisites: BIOL 101, 102, and 103, or equivalent performance on the corresponding biological sciences placement examinations.  sc

MCDB 221La, Model Organisms in Biological Research  Maria Moreno
An introduction to research and common methodologies in the biological sciences, with emphasis on the utility of model organisms. Techniques and methods commonly used in biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, and molecular and developmental biology; experimental
MCDB 250b, Biology of Reproduction  Hugh Taylor and Seth Guller
Introduction to reproductive biology, with emphasis on human reproduction. Development and hormonal regulation of reproductive systems; sexuality, fertilization, and pregnancy; modern diagnosis and treatment of reproductive and developmental disorders; social and ethical issues. BIOL 101, 102, and 103, or equivalent performance on the corresponding biological sciences placement examinations, or a score of 5 on the Advanced Placement test in Biology, or a score of 710 or above on the SAT Biology M test  SC  ½ Course cr

MCDB 251Lb, Laboratory for Biology of Reproduction and Development  Seth Guller and Hugh Taylor
This laboratory course will focus largely on aspects of human reproductive biology, thereby establishing a strong connection with normal and adverse reproductive outcomes. Clinically relevant topics to be covered include the use of human tissue and cell models to study ovarian, uterine, and placental structure and function. The role of tissue specific cellular differentiation, human trophoblast function, and the roles of steroid hormones, inflammatory cytokines, and hypoxia in the regulation of uterine and placental function will be tested. Enrollment limited. Concurrently with or after MCDB 210 or 250. Not open to freshmen. Special registration procedures apply; students must consult the instructor prior to the first week of classes.  SC  ½ Course cr

MCDB 261a / MB&B 261a, Introduction to Dynamical Systems in Biology  Thierry Emonet and Jonathon Howard
Biological systems make sophisticated decisions at many levels. This course explores the molecular and computational underpinnings of how these decisions are made, with a focus on modeling static and dynamic processes in example biological systems. We emphasize analytical and numerical models to explore the relationship between molecular mechanisms and behavior. Topics include molecular switches, regulatory networks, feedback, and signal transduction. The course contains significant instruction in MATLAB, while students also read papers from the primary literature. The course aims to turn ball-and-arrow diagrams into quantitative models with testable predictions. Prerequisite: PHYS 170 or equivalent, or with permission of instructor.  QR, SC

MCDB 290b, Microbiology  Christine Jacobs-Wagner, Stavroula-Arte Hatzios, and John Wertz
Cell structure of microorganisms, bacterial genetics, microbial evolution and diversity, microbial development, microbial interaction, chemotaxis and motility, gene regulation, microbial genomics, host defense systems, infectious diseases, viruses, and industrial microbiology. Prerequisites: BIOL 101, 102, and 103, or equivalent performance on the corresponding biological sciences placement examinations; or one term of biochemistry, or cell biology, or genetics; or with permission of instructor.  SC

* MCDB 291Lb, Laboratory for Microbiology  Iain Dawson
Practical approaches used when working with microbes, primarily bacteria. Topics include microscopy, culture techniques, biochemical/metabolic assays, and basic environmental and medical microbiology. Concurrently with or after MCDB 290. Electronic permission key required; students should contact the instructor prior to the first class meeting.  SC  ½ Course cr

* MCDB 300a / MB&B 300a, Biochemistry  Nicole Clay and Donald Engelman
An introduction to the biochemistry of animals, plants, and microorganisms, emphasizing the relations of chemical principles and structure to the evolution and regulation of living systems. Prerequisites: BIOL 101 or equivalent performance on the corresponding biological sciences placement examination; one term of organic chemistry; or with permission of instructor.  SC

* MCDB 301La or b / MB&B 251La or b, Laboratory for Biochemistry  William Konigsberg and Aruna Pawashe
An introduction to current experimental methods in molecular biology, biophysics, and biochemistry. Limited enrollment. Requires preregistration by e-mail to aruna.pawashe@yale.edu and william.konigsberg@yale.edu prior to the first week of classes. After BIOL 101.  SC  ½ Course cr

* MCDB 303Lb, Advanced Molecular Biology Laboratory  Maria Moreno and Kenneth Nelson
A laboratory course that provides advanced biology research skills. Weekly workshops focus on laboratory practice, experimental design, data analysis, reading of primary literature, scientific presentations, and scientific writing skills. Application of these skills in project-based laboratory training sponsored by a faculty member. Enrollment limited. Special registration procedures apply; interested students must consult the instructor and attend an organizational meeting. This class is recommended to students in the sciences who are in their junior year and will be completing a senior research project requirement for graduation.  SC, RP

* MCDB 310a / BENG 350a, Physiological Systems  Stuart Campbell, Elizabeth Holt, Emile Boulpaep, Peter Aronson, Mark Saltzman, David Zenisek, and Marie Egan
Regulation and control in biological systems, emphasizing human physiology and principles of feedback. Biomechanical properties of tissues emphasizing the structural basis of physiological control. Conversion of chemical energy into work in light of metabolic control and temperature regulation. Prerequisites: CHEM 165 or 167 (or CHEM 115 or 115), or PHYS 180 and 181; MCDB 120, or BIOL 101 and 102.  SC

MCDB 315b, Biological Mechanisms of Reaction to Injury  S. David Hudnall, Jon Morrow, Jeffrey Sklar, Gilbert Moeckel, and Joanna Gibson
Human biology and disease as a manifestation of reaction to injury. Organ structure and function, cell injury, circulatory and inflammatory responses, disordered physiology, and neoplasia. Enrollment limited; preference to junior and senior majors in MCDB or MB&B. Prerequisite: MCDB 205, 300, or 310.  SC, RP
MCDB 320a, Neurobiology  Haig Keshishian and Paul Forscher
The excitability of the nerve cell membrane as a starting point for the study of molecular, cellular, and systems-level mechanisms underlying the generation and control of behavior. After a year of college-level chemistry; a course in physics is strongly recommended.  
SC

MCDB 321La, Laboratory for Neurobiology  Haig Keshishian, Robert Wyman, and Fernando Vonhoff
Introduction to the neurosciences. Projects include the study of neuronal excitability, sensory transduction, CNS function, synaptic physiology, and neuroanatomy. Concurrently with or after MCDB 320. SC ½ Course cr

* MCDB 342La, Laboratory in Nucleic Acids I  Kenneth Nelson
A project from a research laboratory within the MCDB department, using technologies from molecular and cell biology. Laboratories meet twice a week for the first half of the term. Concurrently with or after MCDB 202, 205, or 300. Enrollment limited. Special registration procedures apply; students must consult the instructor prior to the first week of classes. SC ½ Course cr

* MCDB 343La, Laboratory in Nucleic Acids II  Kenneth Nelson
Continuation of MCDB 342La to more advanced projects in molecular and cell biology, such as making and screening cDNA libraries, microarray screening and analysis, or next-generation DNA sequencing. Laboratories meet twice a week for the second half of the term. Prerequisite: MCDB 342La or permission of instructor. Enrollment limited. Special registration procedures apply; students must consult the instructor prior to the first week of classes. SC ½ Course cr

* MCDB 344Lb, Experimental Techniques in Cellular Biology  Joseph Wolenski
An inquiry-based approach to research in cell and molecular biology, with emphasis on experimental techniques commonly used in modern biomedical laboratories. Research is module-based and covers pertinent and timely topics. Methods include SDS-PAGE, immunoblotting, immunoprecipitation of proteins, column chromatography, mammalian cell culture, cell fractionation, cell transfection, plasmid design, DNA purification, PCR, and phase contrast and confocal microscopy. Meets during January and February. Prerequisite: MCDB 205. Special registration procedures apply; interested students must contact the instructor at least eighteen months in advance. SC ½ Course cr

* MCDB 345Lb, Experimental Strategies in Cellular Biology  Joseph Wolenski
Continuation of MCDB 344Lb with increased emphasis on experimental design, independent research, and presentation of data. Students develop semi-independent research projects in modern biomedical research. Emphasis on key components of being a successful principal investigator, including benchwork, seminar presentations, lab meetings, and critical analysis of data. Prepares for MCDB 475, 485, or 495. Meets during March and April. Prerequisite: MCDB 344Lb. Special registration procedures apply; interested students should contact the instructor. SC ½ Course cr

* MCDB 350a, Epigenetics  Nadya Dimitrova, Josephina Van Wolfswinkel, and Yannick Jacob
Study of epigenetic states and the various mechanisms of epigenetic regulation, including histone modification, DNA methylation, nuclear organization, and regulation by non-coding RNAs. Detailed critique of papers from primary literature and discussion of novel technologies, with specific attention to the impact of epigenetics on human health. Introductory courses (BIOL101-104) and two MCDB 200-level courses (strongly recommended: MCDB 200 and MCDB 202) or instructor permission. SC

MCDB 361b / BENG 465b / MB&B 361b, Dynamical Systems in Biology  Damon Clark and Jonathon Howard
Advanced topics related to dynamical processes in biological systems. Processes by which cells compute, count, tell time, oscillate, and generate spatial patterns. Time-dependent dynamics in regulatory, signal-transduction, and neuronal networks; fluctuations, growth, and form. Comparisons between models and experimental data. Dynamical models applied to neurons, neural systems, and cellular biophysical processes. Use of MATLAB to create models. Prerequisite: MCDB 261 or equivalent, or a 200-level biology course, or with permission of instructor. QR

* MCDB 370b, Biotechnology  Craig Crews, Nicole Clay, Ronald Breaker, Joseph Wolenski, Kenneth Nelson, and Farren Isaacs
The principles and applications of cellular, molecular, and chemical techniques that advance biotechnology. The most recent tools and strategies used by industrial labs, academic research, and government agencies to adapt biological and chemical compounds as medical treatments, as industrial agents, or for the further study of biological systems. Prerequisite: MCDB 200, 202, or 300. SC

* MCDB 387b, The Eukaryotic Cell Cycle  Lain Dawson
The regulation and coordination of the eukaryotic cell cycle examined by means of a detailed critique of primary literature. Particular attention to the role of the cell cycle in the processes of development and differentiation and in cancer and other diseases. Students develop an understanding of experimental approaches to problem solving. Enrollment limited, with preference to juniors and seniors. Prerequisites: BIOL 101, 102, and 103, or equivalent performance on the corresponding biological sciences placement examinations; MCDB 202, 205, or 210. Electronic permission key required. Students must contact the instructor prior to the first class meeting. SC

* MCDB 415b, Cellular and Molecular Physiology  Frederick Sigworth
Study of the processes that transfer molecules across membranes. Classes of molecular machines that mediate membrane transport. Emphasis on interactions among transport proteins in determining the physiologic behaviors of cells and tissues. Intended for seniors majoring in the biological sciences. Recommended preparation: MCDB 205, 310, 320, or permission of instructor. SC
* MCDB 425a / MB&B 425a, Basic Concepts of Genetic Analysis  Tian Xu
The universal principles of genetic analysis in eukaryotes. Reading and analysis of primary papers that illustrate the best of genetic analysis in the study of various biological issues. Focus on the concepts and logic underlying modern genetic analysis. Prerequisite: MCDB 202 or equivalent. sc

* MCDB 430a, Biology of the Immune System  Carla Rothlin, David Schatz, Peter Cresswell, Joao Pedro Pereira, Ruslan Medzhitov, Akiko Iwasaki, Craig Roy, Noah Palm, Susan Kaech, Eric Meffre, Martin Kriegel, Vishwa Dixit, and Carrie Lucas
The development of the immune system. Cellular and molecular mechanisms of immune recognition. Effector responses against pathogens. Immunologic memory and vaccines. Human diseases including allergy, autoimmunity, immunodeficiency, and HIV/AIDS. After MCDB 300. sc

* MCDB 435a, Landmark Papers in Cell Biology  Joel Rosenbaum
Discussion and critical evaluation of selected research papers that were important in determining the directions of modern cell biological research. Emphasis on the nature of the problem, evaluation of the experimental approaches and results, and the authors' interpretation of the results. Weekly discussion by all participants required. Students should contact the instructor prior to the first week of classes. Prerequisites: courses in cell biology, biochemistry, and genetics, or permission of instructor. sc

* MCDB 450b, The Human Genome  Nadya Dimitrova and Stephen Dellaporta
A focus on the primary scientific literature covering the principles of genomics and its application to the investigation of complex human traits and diseases. Topics include the technology of genome sequencing and resequencing, the characterization of sequence and structural variation in human populations, haplotype and linkage disequilibrium analysis, genome-wide association studies, the comparative genomics of humans and our closest relatives, and personalized genomics and medicine. Enrollment limited to 15. Students should contact the instructor prior to the first week of classes. Prerequisite: MCDB 202; a course in statistics is strongly recommended. sc

MCDB 452b / MB&B 452b, Biological Data Science, Mining and Modeling  Mark Gerstein
Techniques in data mining and simulation applied to bioinformatics, the computational analysis of gene sequences, macromolecular structures, and functional genomics data on a large scale. Sequence alignment, comparative genomics and phylogenetics, biological databases, geometric analysis of protein structure, molecular-dynamics simulation, biological networks, microarray normalization, and machine-learning approaches to data integration. Prerequisites: MB&B 301 and MATH 115, or permission of instructor. sc

* MCDB 461b, Concepts and Applications in Systems Biology  Murat Acar
Analysis of the primary scientific literature on the topics of gene network design, stochasticity in gene expression, and evolution of genes and networks, in the context of both prokaryotic and eukaryotic systems. Critique of the approaches, data analysis, controls, results, and conclusions of selected current and classic papers in systems biology. Prerequisite: MCDB 261 or 361, or another MCDB course with permission of instructor. sc

* MCDB 474a or b, Independent Research  Staff
Research project under faculty supervision taken Pass/Fail. This is the only independent research course available to undergraduates. Students are expected to spend approximately ten hours per week in the laboratory. To register, the student must submit a form, which is available at http://mcdb.yale.edu/forms as well as on the course site on Classes*v2, and a written plan of study with bibliography, approved by the faculty research adviser. The form and proposal must be uploaded to Classes*v2 by the end of the second week of classes. A final research report is required at the end of the term. Students who take this course more than once must reapply each term. Guidelines for the course should be obtained from the office of the director of undergraduate studies or downloaded from the Classes V2 server.

* MCDB 475a or b, Senior Independent Research  Staff
Research project under faculty supervision, ordinarily taken to fulfill the senior requirement. This course is only available to MCDB seniors and they are awarded a letter grade. Students are expected to spend approximately ten hours per week in the laboratory. To register, the student must prepare a form, which is available at http://mcdb.yale.edu/forms as well as on the course site on Classes*v2, and a written plan of study with bibliography, approved by the faculty research adviser. The form and proposal must be uploaded to Classes*v2 by the end of the second week of classes. The final research paper is due in the hands of the sponsoring faculty member, with a copy uploaded to Classes*v2, by the last day of classes. Students are required to give an oral presentation of their research at the end of the term. Students who take this course more than once must reapply each term; students planning to conduct two terms of research should consider enrolling in MCDB 485, 486. Students should line up a research laboratory during the term preceding the research. Fulfills the senior requirement for the B.A. degree if taken in the senior year. Two consecutive terms of this course fulfill the senior requirement for the B.S. degree if at least one term is taken in the senior year.

* MCDB 485a and MCB 486b, Senior Research  Staff
Individual two-term laboratory research projects under the supervision of a faculty member. For MCDB seniors only. Students are expected to spend ten to twelve hours per week in the laboratory, and to make presentations to students and advisers. Written assignments include a short research proposal summary due at the beginning of the first term, a grant proposal due at the end of the first term, and a research report summarizing experimental results due at the end of the second term. Students are also required to present their research in either the fall or the spring term. A poster session is held at the end of the spring term. Students should line up a research laboratory during the term preceding the research. Guidelines for the course may be obtained at http://mcdb.yale.edu/forms and on the course site on Classes*v2. Written proposals are due by the end of the second week of classes. Fulfills the senior requirement for the B.S. degree if taken in the senior year.
* MCDB 495a and MCDB 496b, Senior Research Intensive  Staff
Individual two-term directed research projects in the field of biology under the supervision of a faculty member. For MCDB seniors only. Before registering, the student must be accepted by a Yale faculty member with a research program in experimental biology and obtain the approval of the instructor in charge of the course. Students spend approximately twenty hours per week in the laboratory, and make written and oral presentations of their research to students and advisers. Written assignments include a short research proposal summary due at the beginning of the first term, a grant proposal due at the end of the first term, and a research report summarizing experimental results due at the end of the second term. Students must attend a minimum of three research seminar sessions (including their own) per term. Students are also required to present their research during both the fall and spring terms. A poster session is held at the end of the spring term. Guidelines for the course may be obtained at http://mcdb.yale.edu/forms and on the course site on Classes*v2. Written proposals are due by the end of the second week of classes. Fulfills the senior requirement for the B.S. degree with an intensive major.

2 Course cr per term