

ZOO3603C - Evolutionary Developmental Biology

Evolution, Development and Regenerative Biology

Fall 2025

Lectures: Tuesdays & Thursdays, period 7 (1.55 – 2.45pm).

Location: Bartram Hall 0211 (Biology Department)

Laboratories: Mondays

Class 17059 Monday, periods 4-6 (10.40am – 1.40pm)

Class 17061 Monday, periods 7-9 (1.55pm – 4.55pm)

Location: Carr Hall 0120 (Biology Department)

Instructor: Dr Malcolm Maden

Professor, Department of Biology

Office: 326 Bartram Hall

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Office Hours: Thursdays, 10.30 -11.30am

Teaching Assistant:

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Course description and objectives

Surely the most amazing process in biology is the development of a complex adult organism such as a human from a single cell, the fertilized egg. The egg divides to give many millions of cells and these form structures as complex and varied as eyes, arms,

heart and brain. How does it do this unbelievable feat of organization? How do the cells arising from early division become different from each other? What controls the behavior of individual cells so that highly organized patterns emerge? How are the organizing principles of development embedded in the DNA of our cells and how is this translated into pattern formation?

This course is designed to answer these exciting questions by studying the developmental principles we see in various organisms – invertebrates such as the fruit fly *Drosophila*, lower vertebrates such as fish and frogs and higher vertebrates such as birds and mammals. The development of individual organ systems such as the brain, the eye and the limbs will also be studied to draw together principles of organization. Amazingly we find that the same signaling pathways are used time and again across both vertebrates and invertebrates to turn an apparently homogeneous group of cells into a structure such as a limb or a brain.

By studying the development of these different animal systems we can also draw together principles of development which have stood the test of evolutionary time. Evolution acts on the developing embryo, not on the adult organism which is why the study of development is so important for understanding how evolution works. As an example of this process we will consider how fish came onto land, turned their fins into limbs and became the first land tetrapods.

In addition the course also includes a consideration of the regeneration of complex organ systems such as the limb and the principles involved in this process. Questions such as what is the role of stem cells in complex regeneration, can cells lose their differentiated state and begin development again will be asked. This will lead us into the medical world of the role that stem cells play in regenerative medicine.

The course consists of two lectures per week and one lab session per week where students can both observe and experiment on embryos. There will be three exams of short answer questions throughout the course and three assignments which will consist of one essay, one scientific presentation and a write-up of the results obtained in the laboratory practical experiments.

Lecture schedule.

Lectures period 7 Tuesdays & Thursdays (1.55 – 2.45pm)

LOCATION: Bartram Hall (Biology) room 211

Date	Lect #	Subject	Lecturer	Textbook chapter (12 th ed.)
Thur Aug 21	1	Intro, history, concepts	M.Maden	1
Tues Aug 26	2	Invertebrates - C. elegans I	B.Harfe	8
Thur Aug 28	3	Invertebrates - C. elegans 2	B.Harfe	8
Model Organisms				
Tues Sept 2	4	Signaling pathways, model organisms	M.Maden	6
Thur Sept 5	5	Invertebrates - Drosophila I	M.Maden	9
Tues Sept 9	6	Invertebrates - Drosophila II	M.Maden	9
Thur Sept 11	7	zebrafish, Xenopus	M.Maden	11
Tues Sept 16	8	Xenopus, chick	M.Maden	11
Thur Sept 18	9	Mouse, transgenics	E.Scott	11
Tues Sept 23	10	Human development	M.Maden	
Organ Systems				
Thur Sept 25		Somitogenesis, clocks	M.Maden	14
Tues Sept 30	12	Development of blood, stem cell concepts	E.Scott	15
Thur Oct 2	13	Limb development I	M.Maden	16

Tues Oct 7	14	Limb development II	M.Maden	16
Thur Oct 9	15	Evolution of digit number	J.Scott	16
Tues Oct 14	16	Evolution of fins and limbs	M.Maden	16
Thur Oct 16	17	Development of external genitalia	M.Cohn	17
Tues Oct 21	18	CNS development	M.Maden	12
Thur Oct 23	19	DV patterning, Hox genes	M.Maden	12
Tues Oct 28	20	Eye patterning and retino-tectal projections	M.Maden	12
Regeneration				
Thur Oct 30	21	Development and regeneration of epithelial structures	G.Fraser	
Thur Nov 1	23	Regeneration in Planarians	M.Maden	18
Tues Nov 11	24	HOLIDAY	M.Maden	18
Thur Nov 13	25	Amphibian limb regeneration I	M.Maden	18
Tues Nov 18	26	Amphibian limb regeneration II	M.Maden	18
Thur Nov 20	27	Mammalian regeneration I	M.Maden	
Tues Nov 25		THANKSGIVING		

Thur Nov 27	THANKSGIVING	
Tues Dec 2	Mammalian regeneration II	M.Maden
Thurs Dec 4	Reading Day	

LAB SCHEDULE

Location: **Carr 0120 (Biology Department)**

Timings: Class 17577 Monday, periods 4-6 10.40am – 1.40pm
Class 17579 Monday, periods 7-9 1.55pm – 4.55pm

Date	Lab #	Topic
Aug 25	1	C. elegans/labster
Sept 1		HOLIDAY (Labor day)
Sept 8	2	Drosophila
Sept 15		exam I SAQs
Sept 22	3	zebrafish/frogs/axolotls I
Sept 29	4	zebrafish/frogs/axolotls II
Oct 6	5	chick I/chick labster
Oct 13	6	chick II

Oct 20		exam II SAQs
Oct 27	7	regeneration I Hydra and Planarians
Nov 3	8	regeneration II Axolotl /online labster
Nov 10	9	score regenerates/presentations
Nov 17	10	presentations
Nov 24		THANKSGIVING
Dec 1		exam III SAQs

Recommended texts:

‘Developmental Biology’ by Baressi & Gilbert, 12th edn. Sinauer Associates. This is an excellent textbook containing more information than you will ever need with multiple websites for more information, videos etc. Older editions are perfectly acceptable (and very much cheaper).

‘Principles of Development’ Wolpert & Tickle, 4th edn. Oxford University Press. A less detailed textbook than above, but with all the necessary information there. Older editions are perfectly acceptable.

Lectures, handouts and supplemental readings:

Lectures will be posted on the course website on Canvas at least the day before class and it is expected that you will either print the appropriate handouts and bring them to class with you or follow them on Canvas. Laboratory worksheets and much additional information will also be available on the course website.

Examinations and grading:

Final grades will be determined by a combination of 3 short answer question exams, an essay, a written assignment summarizing the laboratory practicals, a presentation, attendance at lectures and participation in the course.

Exams 1, 2 & 3 @ 100 points each	300
Assignments 1 (essay), 2 (lab write-up) & 3 (presentation) @ 100 each	300
Attendance/Participation	50
Total	650

Grading: 100-90 = A, 89-85 = B+, 84-80 = B-, 79-75 = C+, 74-70 = C-, 69-65 = D+, 64-60 = D-

Students Requiring Accommodations. Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation. Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.

Class Demeanor. Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones and restrict eating to outside of the classroom. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all. Consistent and punctual attendance to all parts of the course is expected and required and a component of the marks is specifically laid aside for this.

University Honesty Policy. UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conducthonor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

COVID. In response to COVID-19, the following recommendations are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit one.ufl.edu for screening / testing and vaccination opportunities.

If you are sick, stay home. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 to be evaluated.

Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.

Masks are optional at UF. However, masks are always acceptable for those who wish to wear them. The CDC recommends that those not fully vaccinated for COVID-19 continue to wear masks, particularly indoors; and even those who are fully vaccinated may choose to wear masks for a variety of reasons. Thank you for supporting your fellow Gators as they balance health, comfort, and other considerations in their decision to wear or not to wear a mask.

Attendance and make-ups

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx> [Links to an external site.](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms ([click here for guidance from the CDC on symptoms of coronavirus](#) [Links to an external site.](#)[Links to an external site.](#)), please use the

UF Health screening system and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class. [Click here for UF Health guidance on what to do if you have been exposed to or are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms](#) [Links to an external site.](#) [Links to an external site.](#). Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work. Refer to the above link for more information on the university's attendance policy.

Resources Available to Students

Health and Wellness

- *U Matter, We Care*: umatter@ufl.edu; 392-1575
- *Counseling and Wellness Center*: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx> [Links to an external site.](#) [Links to an external site.](#); 392-1575
- *Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)*: Student Health Care Center; 392-1161
- *University Police Department*: <http://www.police.ufl.edu/> [Links to an external site.](#) [Links to an external site.](#); 392-1111 (911 for emergencies)

Academic Resources

- *E-learning technical support*: Learningsupport@ufl.edu; <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml> [Links to an external site.](#) [Links to an external site.](#); 352-392-4357 (opt. 2)
- *Career Resource Center*: Reitz Union; <http://www.crc.ufl.edu/> [Links to an external site.](#) [Links to an external site.](#); 392-1601
- *Library Support*: <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask> [Links to an external site.](#) [Links to an external site.](#)
- *Teaching Center*: Broward Hall; 392-2010 or 392-6420
- *Writing Studio*: 302 Tigert Hall; <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/> [Links to an external site.](#) [Links to an external site.](#); 846-1138

Procedure for Conflict Resolution

Any classroom issues, disagreements or grade disputes should be discussed first between the instructor and the student. If the problem cannot be resolved, please contact the Undergraduate Coordinator or the Department Chair. Be prepared to provide documentation of the problem, as well as all graded materials for the semester. Issues that

cannot be resolved departmentally will be referred to the University Ombuds Office (<http://www.ombuds.ufl.edu> [Links to an external site.](#)[Links to an external site.](#); 392-1308) or the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu> [Links to an external site.](#)[Links to an external site.](#); 392-1261). For further information refer to https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf [Links to an external site.](#)[Links to an external site.](#)(for residential classes) or <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaintprocess> [Links to an external site.](#)[Links to an external site.](#)(for online classes).