Purpose

To describe in detail the fundamental aspects of transcriptional regulation in the context of stem cell biology. The Course has been divided into 3 distinct sections, which introduce new emerging concepts in stem cell biology related to transcriptional regulation and clinical applications.

Part A: Transcription and Mechanisms of Gene Regulation
Part B: Stem Cells and Development
Part C: Stem Cells in Disease / Stem Cell Applications

Evaluation of student performance

Students will be evaluated based on their grades in two midterm tests and a final examination. The final grade will be calculated as follows: test 1, 25% (multiple-choice); test 2, 25% (multiple-choice); final examination, 50% (multiple-choice and essay-style answers). The final exam will test cumulative knowledge. No make-up tests will be offered. If a test is missed for a legitimate reason, the percent value of the test will be added to the final exam. That is, the final exam will be worth 75% of the final grade. Otherwise, the mark for the missed test will be zero (0).

If you are absent from the university for a minor medical reason, lasting fewer than 5 days, you may report your absence, once per term, without documentation, using the McMaster Student Absence Form. Absences for a longer duration or for other reasons must be reported to your Faculty/Program office, with documentation, and relief from term work may not necessarily be granted. When using the MSAF, report your absence to dobleb@mcmaster.ca. You must then contact Dr. Doble immediately (normally within 2 working days) by e-mail at dobleb@mcmaster.ca.
Please note that the MSAF may not be used for term work worth 30% or more, nor can it be used for the final examination. Grades for the test will be posted on LearnLink via the last five digits of the student number. By attending class, the student is agreeing to this method of grade disclosure.

Percentage grade will be converted to a final letter (see Table below).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Letter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>57-59</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>&lt;50</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>63-66</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>53-56</td>
<td>D</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>50-52</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All percentage grades within 0.5% of the next letter grade will be reviewed.

**Questions:** Students are encouraged to ask questions in class and at scheduled Tutorials (see Schedule). Otherwise, questions should be posted to LearnLink.

**Textbook:** Gene Control, David S. Latchman, Garland Science

**Lecture notes:** [http://www.learnlink.mcmaster.ca](http://www.learnlink.mcmaster.ca)

**Academic ethics:** Students are asked to reread two documents provided on registration; the Senate Statement on Academic Ethics, and the Senate Resolutions on Academic Dishonesty. Students should be sure that they understand the expectations the University has of its scholars, and the possible consequences when these expectations are not met.

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, eg. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the University. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty, please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at: [http://www.mcmaster.ca/univsec/policy/AcademicIntegrity.pdf](http://www.mcmaster.ca/univsec/policy/AcademicIntegrity.pdf)

*The instructors and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.*