

Course & Instructor Information

Course Coordinator

Dr. Arthur Mortha, PhD arthur.mortha@utoronto.ca

Office Hours: *Please email for appointment*

Course Overview

Using a combination of presentations, group discussions and written assessments, this course will give students an in-depth knowledge of community peer-reviewing of preprint articles.

Course Prerequisites:

The prerequisite for this course is a solid background in Immunology but does not require previous participation in immunology graduate courses. The course however requires a fairly advanced knowledge in immunology. Students who are missing background knowledge in some areas should fill these gaps using textbooks, comprehensive review articles, discussions with colleagues, or advice from faculty members or the course coordinator. Don't hesitate to reach out.

Please note that students who are *not* in the graduate program in Immunology need to obtain prior permission from the course coordinator to register for this course.

Course organization:

The course will follow a seminar/discussion format. Each session will include at least one presentation of a preprint article, chosen by the presenting student. The selected preprint article will be posted onto Quercus, at least 3 days prior to the session and a link to the article should be shared with the course coordinator ahead of the 3 day deadline. All participating students are required to read the article prior to the session and are expected to prepare questions and points of discussion.

Each session will be held virtually in collaboration with groups from the University of Oxford, the Karolinska Institute and Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York, which will provide a broad scientific community of immunology trainees.

The presenting student will give an approx. 20-25 minutes presentation summarizing the selected preprint article. The student will then provide an objective assessment of the article's quality of research, limitations, the article's significance and novelty, each followed by a score from 1-5 (5 being the highest) for each of these categories. Each score will be justified by the presenter and discussed with the group. Each participant will then be able to ask questions on the presented article. The group then collectively discusses the scores and each student is given the chance to provide their own comments. In an anonymous poll, each student is then able to provide their own personal score on the article. The average score for each article will be collected to provide an overall ranking of all articles discussed through the term.

The presenting student will take notes of any additional comment made by the course participants on their presented article. These comments and the student's own assessment will then be summarized by the presenting student into a 2-3 page review of the preprint article. This written review will be made available to the

group and be assessed by the course coordinator for objectivity of the assessment, a clear and concise formulation of the limitations and a positive constructive tone of any questions and feedback that were raised. The written preprint digest will then be posted on the preprint journal club website and made available to the public, providing a link to the preprint article and the digest. This will ensure availability of the articles assessment to the broad scientific research community. Furthermore, a link to the digest will be provided to the corresponding author of the article for direct feedback.

Collectively, following this process, each trainee should experience how to present a preprint article, how to spot limitations, how to formulate suggestions and feedback for the authors and how to assess the novelty and significance of new scientific data. It furthermore opens discussion on an international level and facilitate exposure of trainees to the authors that generated the preprint article. Besides of the training mission this course therefore allows our trainees to gain better exposure to other immunology communities and leading authors in the field.

Should a presented preprint article be ranked exceptionally high by the students, the editors of Nature Reviews in Immunology will invite the trainee to write a 1 page summary of the preprint article that will be published in the Nature Reviews in Immunology's section "Journal Club". The trainee will write this summary either with their PhD supervisor or the course coordinator. Editorial feedback will also be provided by the handling editors at Nature Reviews in Immunology.

Course location and time:

The course will take place on the depicted dates in the *course schedule* provided to enrolled students via Quercus.

Each session will be held virtual via zoom.

TIME: every Wednesday at 9:30 AM until 10:30 AM – exact start date will be announced

Evaluation Scheme & Course Assessments

Assessment	% of Grade	Due Date
Course participation	33%	September 1 st
Preprint Article Presentation	33%	Throughout term
Written preprint article assessment	34%	Throughout term

**All grading will be done by the course coordinator. The course coordinator will assemble the marks and administer the final mark.*

The grade for the course will be based on:

Continued attendance and active participation in the course and discussions (a max of 5 session can be missed by the trainee throughout the term after notifying the course coordinator via e-mail: arthur.mortha@utoronto.ca) **33%**

The quality of the presentation of the preprint article. Here the course coordinator will assess how well the subject has been introduced by the student, how well the hypothesis of the article was explained, how the data is discussed and interpreted and lastly how limitations of scientific results, novelty and significance are justified by the student. The course coordinator will provide feedback on the presentation. **33%**

Written preprint article assessment. The trainee will be marked on the 2-3 page digest they are writing, summarizing the preprint article. An emphasis will be laid on concise writing, clear formulations and ordered argumentation and justification of the limitations. The digest is expect to be submitted to the course coordinator via Quercus no later than 2 days after the presentation. The course coordinator will provide feedback and edits on the written digest and trainees participating in the course will have access to the edited document to review the edits for educational purposes. **34%**

Statement on Academic Integrity

All students, faculty and staff are expected to follow the University's guidelines and policies on academic integrity. For students, this means following the standards of academic honesty when writing assignments, collaborating with fellow students, and writing tests and exams. Ensure that the work you submit for grading represents your own honest efforts. Plagiarism—representing someone else's work as your own or submitting work that you have previously submitted for marks in another class or program—is a serious offence that can result in sanctions. Speak to your course instructor for advice on anything that you find unclear. To learn more about how to cite and use source material appropriately and for other writing support, see the U of T writing support website at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca>. Consult the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters for a complete outline of the University's policy and expectations. For more information, please see <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai> and <http://academicintegrity.utoronto.ca>.

Note: Upon submission on Quercus, student term papers will be automatically submitted to Turnitin.com for review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their assignments to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com website.

Accessibility Needs

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible: disability.services@utoronto.ca or <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility>.

Drop Date

The final date to drop full-year courses without academic penalty is Monday, February 27, 2024.