

# IMM432H1 Winter/Spring 2026: Case Studies in Autoimmune Diseases

## Course Coordinator

Dr. Shannon Dunn

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Office hours: In person, by appointment, just before or following class (or by zoom)

**When:** Wed 12-3pm.

**Where:** Check ACORN

**Format:** 60-90 minute lecture followed by student presentations (starting Week 3). Lecture slides will be posted but recordings will not. The lecture will be followed by a student-led presentation and discussion of a journal article. This will be a group presentation and groups will be made on the first day of class.

In class formal mid-term and formal final exam in the lecture hall.

Class participation **is mandatory and will be graded**. Students must attend all classes and ask questions during the lecture or after the student presentations to receive a full attendance mark (worth 10%).

A lecture recording will only be made available for those with a sick note that documents serious illness. The course coordinator will follow-up to check the validity of all sick notes.

## Course Overview:

Understanding autoimmune diseases and identifying molecular targets that either slow or stop disease progression is critical for the development of novel and effective therapies that improve patient quality of life. This course will consist of a formal format that incorporates some case-based learning to provide an advanced overview of autoimmune diseases and their treatments. Each lecture will include an in-depth study of a process related to autoimmunity or of a selected autoimmune disease. One of the main learning outcomes of this course is to develop key transferable skills in team-based learning, oral communication, and group discussions.

Prerequisites: IMM340H1/IMM341H1, IMM350H1/IMM351H1.

## Course Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, students will have deep knowledge of how autoimmunity may get started and the factors involved. They will also gain an understanding of the differences between organ-specific and systemic autoimmune diseases. Through the presentation

assignment, they will develop skills in organization of complex techniques and concepts, critiquing, and oral communication.

## Marking Scheme

Assessment	% of Grade	Date	Description
Midterm exam	30%	February 25	Short answer questions based on lecture material up to the mid-term.
Student Led Journal Article Presentation (Group Presentation).	30%	Dates confirmed on first day of Class	<p>Students be organized in groups and each group will present one journal club article chosen by the lecturer or Dr. Dunn., 2) Objective, 3) Hypothesis, 3) Methods The article will be shared with the class beforehand. The presentation should include the following sections: 1) Background and Rationale, 4) Results, 5) Discussion (how do findings relate to what we know-how are they transforming how we think of autoimmunity?) At the end of the presentation, the students will start a discussion by asking the group questions about the paper. These are examples of questions that could be asked.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How do you think the paper could have been improved?</li> <li>2. Did you find the paper exciting-- why or why not?</li> <li>3. What alternative techniques could the authors have used to address their question?</li> </ol>
Attendance to Class and Student Presentations, Participation in Discussion of Journal Article Presentation	10%	N/A	Students will sign in at the beginning of class. It is expected that students stay for both the lecture and the student presentation and are expected to ask questions during the lecture or after the student presentations to get the full marks for which they are eligible based on their attendance. To be eligible for full marks, you need to also attend 10 out

			of the 11 lectures. If you miss 2-4 lectures, you will be only eligible for a maximum of 7 marks. If you miss more than this you will receive a zero attendance mark.
Final Exam	30%	TBA (in exam hall), written, short answer	The formal exam will be at the end of term in the regular exam schedule.

Week	Date	Lecturer	Topic
1	Jan 7	Dr. Stuart Berger	Introduction to Autoimmunity. Organize presentation groups
2	Jan 14	Dr. Shannon Dunn	T cell tolerance-Case Study of AIRE/FoxP3 mutant. Sample Journal Article Presentation.
3	Jan 21	Dr. Shannon Dunn	B cell tolerance-First student journal club presentation
4	Jan 28	Dr. Jayne Danska	Type I diabetes and role of the microbiome
5	Feb 4	Dr. Shannon Dunn	Multiple Sclerosis (MS)
6	Feb 11	Dr. Matthew Lincoln	Role of Vitamin D and Smoking in MS
7	<b>Feb 18</b>	<b>Reading Week</b>	No lecture
8	<b>Feb 25</b>	<b>Midterm in class</b>	
9	March 4	Dr. Joan Wither	SLE and Case Study of SLE
10	March 11	Dr. Tobias Lanz	Molecular Mimicry: Connection between Epstein Barr Virus and MS (zoom presentation)
11	March 18	Dr. Shannon Dunn	"Brain on Fire": The clinical identification of NMDA receptor encephalomyelitis (Case Series)
12	March 25	Dr. Diana Nakib	Liver autoimmunity and transplant
13	April 1	Dr. Alan Lazarus	Blood alloimmunity: Mis-matched self

## Policies & Statements

### Late/Missed Presentation

If a student misses their scheduled group presentation due to illness, they will have to conduct a make-up presentation within the month. For this make-up the student will be provided a new journal article to present to Dr. Dunn on their own. They will have to critique the article instead of leading the group discussion. A failure to meet the deadline for this second presentation will result in a zero grade on the assignment.

### Specific Medical Circumstances

If you become ill and it affects your ability to do your academic work, consult me right away. I will ask you for documentation in support of your specific medical circumstances. This documentation can be an Absence Declaration (via ACORN) or the University's Verification of Student Illness or Injury (VOI) form. The VOI indicates the impact and severity of the illness, while protecting your privacy about the details of the nature of the illness. If you cannot submit a VOI due to limits on terms of use, you can submit a different form (like a letter from a doctor), as long as it is an original document, and it contains the same information as the VOI (including dates, academic impact, practitioner's signature, phone and registration number). For more information on the VOI, please see <http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca>. For information on Absence Declaration Tool for A&S students, please see <https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/absence>. If you get a concussion, break your hand, or suffer some other acute injury, you should register with Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

### Make-Up Quizzes/Tests

A make-up for the mid-term will only be allowed a student has a serious illness. The make-up will be scheduled within a week of the original mid-term at the discretion of the professor. A make-up for the final will be provided only after the student has successfully petitioned the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

### Mental Health and Well-Being

Your mental health is important. Throughout university life, there are many experiences that can impact your mental health and well-being. As a University of Toronto student, you can access free mental health and wellbeing services at Health & Wellness (<https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/department/health-wellness/>) such as same day counselling, brief counselling, medical care, skill-building workshops, and drop-in peer support. You can also meet with a Wellness Navigation Advisor who can connect you with other campus and community services and support. Call the mental health clinic at 416-978-8030 ext. 5 to book an appointment or visit <https://uoft.me/mentalhealthcare> to learn about the services available to you.

You can also visit your College Registrar to learn about the resources and supports available: <https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/college-registrars-offices>

If you're in distress, you can access immediate support: <https://uoft.me/feelingdistressed>

### Re-marking Policy- Timeline and Protocol

Dr. Dunn will mark the presentation assignment and exams. There will be no re-mark of the presentation. A re-mark of the mid-term can be requested. A re-mark of the final can be requested after petitioning the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Dunn will be the one to re-mark the final upon successful petition. Note that the mark can go up or down with remarking.

### Religious Accommodations

As a student at the University of Toronto, you are part of a diverse community that welcomes and includes students and faculty from a wide range of cultural and religious traditions. For my part, I will make every reasonable effort to avoid scheduling tests, examinations, or other compulsory activities on religious holy days not captured by statutory holidays. Further to

University Policy, if you anticipate being absent from class or missing a major course activity (such as a test or in-class assignment) due to a religious observance, please let me know as early in the course as possible, and with sufficient notice (at least two to three weeks), so that we can work together to make alternate arrangements.

#### Students with Disabilities or Accommodation Requirements

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have an acute or ongoing disability issue or accommodation need, you should register with Accessibility Services (AS) at the beginning of the academic year by visiting <https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/department/accessibility-services/>. Without registration, you will not be able to verify your situation with your instructors, and instructors will not be advised about your accommodation needs. AS will assess your situation, develop an accommodation plan with you, and support you in requesting accommodation for your course work. Remember that the process of accommodation is private: AS will not share details of your needs or condition with any instructor, and your instructors will not reveal that you are registered with AS.

#### Academic Integrity

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019) (<https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019>). If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, please reach out to me. Note that you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from me or from other institutional resources. For example, 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 [A&S Student Academic Integrity](https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/student-academic-integrity) (<https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/student-academic-integrity>) and the [University of Toronto Website on Academic Integrity](https://www.academicintegrity.utoronto.ca) (<https://www.academicintegrity.utoronto.ca>).

#### Accommodation for Personal Reasons

There may be times when you are unable to complete course work on time due to non-medical reasons. If you have concerns, speak to me or to an advisor in your College Registrar's office; they can help you to decide if you want to request an extension or other forms of academic consideration. They may be able to email your instructors directly to provide a College Registrar's letter of support and connect you with other helpful resources on campus.

#### Quercus Info (if using)

This Course uses the University's learning management system, Quercus, to post information about the course. This includes posting readings and other materials required to complete class activities and course assignments, as well as sharing important announcements and updates. New information and resources will be posted regularly as we move through the term. To access the course website, go to the U of T Quercus log-in page at <https://q.utoronto.ca>. SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT GRADES POSTED ONLINE: Please also note that any grades posted are for your information only, so you can view and track your progress through the course. No

grades are considered official, including any posted in Quercus at any point in the term, until they have been formally approved and posted on ACORN at the end of the course. Please contact me as soon as possible if you think there is an error in any grade posted on Quercus.

#### Recording Lectures

The lecture will be recorded and only provided if accommodations are necessary or if a student missed the class due to having severe illness.

#### Course Materials, including lecture notes

Course materials are provided for the exclusive use of enrolled students. These materials should not be reposted, shared, put in the public domain, or otherwise distributed without the explicit permission of the instructor. These materials belong to your instructor, the University, and/or other sources depending on the specific facts of each situation and are protected by copyright. Students violating these policies will be subject to disciplinary actions under the Code of Student Conduct.

#### Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

The University of Toronto is committed to equity, human rights and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect where all members of our community can express themselves, engage with each other, and respect one another's differences. U of T does not condone discrimination or harassment against any persons or communities.

## **Additional Content**

### **Policy Regarding Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools**

The use of AI tools is strictly prohibited in all course assessments. You may not interact with, copy, paraphrase or adapt any content from generative AI for the purpose of completing assignments or assessments for this course. The use of AI will be considered an unauthorized aid, which is a form of academic misconduct.