RNA Biology

Course code: 3024370
Time: Monday 10:10 – 12:00 am
Organizers: Soo-Chen Cheng and Tien-Hsien Chang

Course objectives
This is a graduate level course designed for master and Ph. D. students with appropriate backgrounds in biochemistry and molecular biology. The goal of the course is to introduce recent developments in various subjects of RNA-related research. RNA has been recognized to play important roles in various cellular pathways. More and more functions of RNA molecules are being discovered. We will learn new discoveries in RNA research in several selected subjects. The course includes eight lectures and seven discussion sessions. Students will be provided with papers of the subjects introduced in the class for presentation in the discussion sessions. The presentation may be done in groups depending on the number of students enrolled. There will also be a quiz at the end of each class.

Grading
20% Quiz
50% Presentation and class participation
30% Report

Presentation of papers
The length of your presentation should be approximately 45 min. Be sure to practice your presentation so that it will be polished and so you do not exceed your time! Your presentation will be interrupted with questions from the students and faculty in the audience, bringing the total time to about 60 minutes. It is expected that the presenter will have read many more papers and reviews in addition to the assigned readings so that he/she will be well prepared to present the material and to answer questions in an intelligent and thorough manner.

Class responsibilities
1. All students are expected to be present for each class. Please contact the organizer or Jessica if you cannot be present on a particular day.
2. You are REQUIRED to read the papers prior to the student presentation so that you will be able to participate in and benefit from the class discussion. The entire class is expected to think about the paper in a critical manner and be prepared to ask questions and discuss the results. Do not hesitate to ask questions about material that you did not understand.
3. At the end of the semester, you are required to turn in a report of 3-5 pages on a paper of a different subject from that of your presentation.