BIOL 6909 - The Human Microbiome

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 41659,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Carl Johnston

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Professor
Instructor Professional Qualifications: Ph.D.
Instructor Office Location: Ward Beecher 4006
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Course Description

6909. The Human Microbiome. This course covers microbial communities and their interactions associated with the human host. Scientific literature on the identity and roles of microbes associated with the human gut, oral cavity, skin, genital-urinary tract and respiratory system will be reviewed, presented, and discussed. Restrictions: Student must have completed one of the following courses: undergraduate microbiology, physiology, biochemistry, immunology, or molecular biology. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Optional	No textbook required		

Scientific readings will be posted in Blackboard for discussions.

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

This schedule will vary according to presentations at the end

Day	Date	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
Mon	8/24	First meeting Mandatory LIVE		
Wed	8/26	Ch 1 - Ch 3 material posted in Blackboard. You are responsible for learning this material on your own. E-mail/make an appointment for clarification/questions. No attendance		
Mon	8/31	Ch 1 - Ch 3 material posted in Blackboard. You are responsible for learning this material on your own. E-mail/make an appointment for clarification/questions. No attendance		You are responsible for learning this material on your own. E-mail/make an appointment for clarification/questions.
Wed	9/2	Ch 1 - Ch 3 material posted in Blackboard. You are responsible for learning this material on your own. E-mail/make an appointment for clarification/questions. No attendance.		You are responsible for learning this material on your own. E-mail/make an appointment for clarification/questions.
Mon	9/7	Holiday		You are responsible for learning this material on your own. E-mail/make an appointment for clarification/questions.

Wed	9/9	Review Ch 1 - Ch 3 LIVE in class room. Mandatory meeting. Mandatory attendance	
Mon	9/14	Review Ch 1 - Ch 3 LIVE in class room. Mandatory meeting. Mandatory attendance	
Wed	9/16	Test 1 Ch 1- Ch 3 Mandatory attendance	
Mon	9/21	Ch 4 - Ch 6 material posted in Blackboard. You are responsible for learning this material on your own. E-mail/make an appointment for clarification/questions.	You are responsible for learning this material on your own. E-mail/make an appointment for clarification/questions.
Wed	9/23	Ch 4 - Ch 6 material posted in Blackboard. You are responsible for learning this material on your own. E-mail/make an appointment for clarification/questions.	You are responsible for learning this material on your own. E-mail/make an appointment for clarification/questions.
Mon	9/28	Ch 4 - Ch 6 material posted in Blackboard. You are responsible for learning this material on your own. E-mail/make an appointment for clarification/questions.	You are responsible for learning this material on your own. E-mail/make an appointment for clarification/questions.
Wed	9/30	Review Ch 4 - Ch 6 LIVE in classroom. Mandatory attendance Mandatory attendance	
Mon	10/5	Review Ch 4 - Ch 6 LIVE in classroom. Mandatory attendance Mandatory attendance	
Wed	10/7	Test 2 Ch 4 - Ch 6 Live in classroom. Mandatory attendance Mandatory attendance	
Mon	10/12	Probiotics and Health Assigned reading. No attendance	You must understand this scientific article and lead the discussion in next class (see below)
Wed	10/14	Probiotics and Health Assigned reading. No attendance	You must understand this scientific article and lead the discussion in next class (see below)
Mon	10/19	Discussion (graded) of Probiotics and Health paper Due date to pick 2 topics for presentations. ONLYgraduate students t Mandatory attendance. Discussions are graded.	You must understand this scientific article and lead the discussion in next class
Wed	10/21	Discussion (graded) of Probiotics and Health paper Mandatory attendance. Discussions are graded.	You must understand this scientific article and lead the discussion in next class
Mon	10/26	Microbiome in Early-Late Life Assigned reading No attendance.	You must understand this scientific article and lead the discussion in next class
Wed	10/28	icrobiome in Early-Late Life Assigned reading No attendance.	You must understand this scientific article and lead the discussion in next class.
Mon	11/2	Discussion (graded) Microbiome in Early-Late Life Mandatory attendance. Discussions are graded.	

Wed	11/4	Discussion (graded) Microbiome in Early-Late Life Mandatory attendance. Discussions are graded.
Mon	11/9	Graduate students presentations Mandatory attendance
Wed	11/11	Holiday. No classes Mandatory attendance
Mon	11/16	Graduate students presentations Mandatory attendance
Wed	11/18	Graduate students presentations Mandatory attendance
Mon	11/23	Graduate students presentations Mandatory attendance
Wed	11/25	No classes. YSU closed. Mandatory attendance
Mon	11/30	Graduate students presentations Mandatory attendance
Wed	12/2	TBD
Mon	12/7	TBD
Wed	12/9	TBD

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.