**Microbiology and Immunology**

**Chair**  
- Li Wu

**Director, Undergraduate Studies**  
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**Director, Graduate Studies**  
- Timothy L. Yahr

**Undergraduate major:** microbiology (B.S.)  
**Undergraduate minor:** microbiology  
**Graduate degrees:** M.S. in microbiology; Ph.D. in microbiology  
**Faculty:** [https://medicine.uiowa.edu/microbiology/people/](https://medicine.uiowa.edu/microbiology/people/)  
**Website:** [https://medicine.uiowa.edu/microbiology/](https://medicine.uiowa.edu/microbiology/)

### Courses

#### Microbiology and Immunology Courses

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**MICR:2157 General Microbiology**  
3 s.h.  
Principles of bacterial and viral diversity, structure, genetics, physiology, and metabolism in contexts of molecular biology, immunology, infectious disease, and environmental microbiology. Prerequisites: BIOL:1411 and CHEM:1110.

**MICR:2158 General Microbiology Laboratory**  
2 s.h.  
Practice of basic techniques commonly used today for study of easy-to-grow microorganisms; variety of individual and group lab activities that challenge students to apply observations about bacteria and viruses. Corequisites: MICR:2157, if not taken as a prerequisite.

**MICR:3147 Immunology and Human Disease**  
3 s.h.  
Important principles and key concepts in immunology with a focus on the involvement of the immune system in disease pathogenesis; overview of innate and adaptive immune systems and their functions at cellular and molecular levels. Prerequisites: BIOL:1411 with a minimum grade of C and BIOL:1412 with a minimum grade of C.

**MICR:3150 Eukaryotic Pathogens and Human Disease**  
2 s.h.  
Foundational understanding of the lifecycle, epidemiology, pathogenesis, diagnosis, and treatment of major eukaryotic pathogens/parasites that cause human disease. Prerequisites: MICR:2157 with a minimum grade of C. Recommendations: genetics, biochemistry, and immunology.

**MICR:3159 Bacteria and Human Disease**  
3 s.h.  
Infection and replication strategies of bacteria with an emphasis on human disease; for students interested in microbiology or other biological sciences, epidemiology, and/or health-related occupations. Prerequisites: MICR:2157 with a minimum grade of C.

**MICR:3160 Bacterial Physiology and Cell Biology**  
2 s.h.  
Bacterial physiology and cell biology with reference to model organisms and adaptations to extreme environments; topics include energy metabolism, growth, cell structure, macromolecular assembly, cell division, microbial development, and microbial interactions; lectures augmented with readings from primary literature to give students a strong foundation in prokaryotic biology and approaches used in modern microbiology research. Prerequisites: (BIOC:3110 or BIOC:3120) and MICR:2157 with a minimum grade of C.

**MICR:3164 Microbiology and Human Health**  
4 s.h.  
Microbiology for nursing, pharmacy, and pre-health professions. Prerequisites: BIOL:1411 or BIOL:1140 or BIOL:1141.

**MICR:3165 Bacteria and Human Disease Laboratory and Discussion**  
3 s.h.  
Use of bacterial genetics and molecular biology techniques and methodologies to study bacteria which cause human disease; development of skills in data analysis and presentation, reading scientific literature, and writing scientific abstracts; for students interested in microbiology or other biological sciences, epidemiology, and/or health-related occupations. Prerequisites: MICR:2157 with a minimum grade of C and MICR:2158 with a minimum grade of C. Corequisites: MICR:3159 or MICR:3170, if not taken as a prerequisite.

**MICR:3168 Viruses and Human Disease**  
3 s.h.  
Infection and replication strategies of viruses with an emphasis on human disease; for microbiology majors as well as students interested in pre-medicine, biological sciences, epidemiology, and/or other health-related occupations. Prerequisites: BIOL:1412 with a minimum grade of C or MICR:2157 with a minimum grade of C.

**MICR:3170 Microbial Genetics**  
2 s.h.  
Genetics of bacteria and bacteriophages including classical, molecular, and genome-wide approaches. Prerequisites: BIOL:2512 with a minimum grade of C or MICR:2157 with a minimum grade of C.

**MICR:3177 Virology Discussion**  
1 s.h.  
Students read and discuss papers from virology literature that address current issues in virology. Prerequisites: MICR:2157 with a minimum grade of C. Corequisites: MICR:3168 (if not taken as a prerequisite).

**MICR:3178 Virology Laboratory**  
2 s.h.  
Practical approaches to studying viruses; basic techniques in virology including virus detection, virus growth measurement, and virus genetics; introduction to bioinformatic analysis of virus genomes and infections. Prerequisites: MICR:2157 with a minimum grade of C and MICR:2158 with a minimum grade of C. Corequisites: MICR:3168 (if not taken as a prerequisite).

**MICR:4161 Undergraduate Research in Microbiology**  
Experimental research under faculty supervision. Prerequisites: BIOL:1411.

**MICR:4163 Seminar: Microbiology**  
2 s.h.  
Current topics in microbiology, immunology, and virology. Prerequisites: 2 of the following are required: MICR:3147 with a minimum grade of C, MICR:3159 with a minimum grade of C, MICR:3160 with a minimum grade of C, MICR:3168 with a minimum grade of C, MICR:3170 with a minimum grade of C. Requirements: senior standing.
MICR:4171 Honors Undergraduate Research in Microbiology | ARR
Experimental research under faculty supervision. Prerequisites: BIOL:1411. Requirements: microbiology major, junior or senior standing, 3.33 overall g.p.a., and 3.33 g.p.a. in microbiology courses.

MICR:4175 Topics in Parasitism | 1 S.H.
Molecular and immunologic mechanisms by which bacteria, viruses, and protozoa cause human diseases; based on manuscript readings and/or student presentations. Requirements: junior or higher standing in microbiology or related discipline, and current or prior research in a microbiology and immunology laboratory.

MICR:5218 Microscopy for Biomedical Research | ARR
Basic microscopy methods for research including optics, preparation, and analysis of biomedical specimens; light, fluorescence, confocal, transmitting electron, scanning electron, atomic force microscopes, elemental analysis; immunochemistry and stereochemistry techniques; individualized laboratory instruction. Prerequisites: BIOL:2723. Same as ACB:5218, BIOL:5218.

MICR:5264 Directed Study in Microbiology | ARR
Advanced-level experimental research or teaching under faculty supervision.

MICR:5875 Perspectives in Biocatalysis | 1-3 S.H.
Applied enzymology, protein design, structure-activity relationships, biosensor technology, microbial transformations, biodegradation of environmental pollutants. Requirements: graduate standing in a participating department supported by the Predoctoral Training Program in Biotechnology. Same as BIOC:5875, CBE:5875, CEE:5875, CHEM:5875, PHAR:5875.

MICR:6201 Graduate Immunology | 3 S.H.
Ontogeny, activation, and function of T lymphocytes and B lymphocytes; innate immune effector mechanisms; major histocompatibility complex; antigen presentation; thymocyte positive and negative selection; signaling of T lymphocytes, B lymphocytes; emphasis on experimental methods for analysis of these processes. Prerequisites: MICR:3147. Requirements: for IMMU:6201—college biology, general chemistry, and introductory immunology courses; for MICR:6201—courses in college biology, genetics, general chemistry, and introductory immunology. Recommendations: for IMMU:6201—courses in biochemistry and genetics; for MICR:6201—biochemistry course. Same as IMMU:6201.

MICR:6240 Graduate Eukaryotic Pathogens and Human Disease | 2 S.H.
Foundational understanding of the lifecycle, epidemiology, pathogenesis, diagnosis, and treatment of major eukaryotic pathogens/parasites that cause human disease. Recommendations: genetics, biochemistry, and immunology.

MICR:6247 Graduate Immunology and Human Disease | 4 S.H.
Important principles and key concepts in immunology with a focus on the involvement of the immune system in disease pathogenesis; overview of innate and adaptive immune systems and their functions at cellular and molecular levels; learning enhanced by case-based, small-group discussion and writing exercises. Same as IMMU:6247.

MICR:6250 Mechanisms of Parasitism Journal Club | 1 S.H.
Reviews of recent publications in molecular parasitology research and thesis research by training grant or journal club students. Same as MMED:6250.

MICR:6255 Graduate Experimental Approaches to Molecular Microbiology | 2 S.H.
Exposure to common experimental approaches through examination of primary literature and facilitated discussions on application of those approaches to advance scientific inquiry. Requirements: microbiology graduate standing.

MICR:6259 Graduate Bacteria and Human Disease | 3 S.H.
Infection and replication strategies of bacteria with an emphasis on human disease; discussion focuses on experimental approaches used to study mechanisms of disease.

MICR:6260 Graduate Bacterial Physiology and Cell Biology | 2 S.H.
Bacterial physiology and cell biology with reference to model organisms and adaptations to extreme environments; topics include energy metabolism, growth, cell structure, macromolecular assembly, cell division, microbial development, and microbial interactions; lectures augmented with readings from primary literature to give students a strong foundation in prokaryotic biology and approaches used in modern microbiology research.

MICR:6265 Introduction to Grant Writing | 2 S.H.
How to think and write like scientists and become familiar with the elements of a research proposal; writing a grant proposal modeled on a National Institutes of Health Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant Award (NIH R21); students critique proposals written by other students; faculty read proposals and provide constructive criticism; lectures describe elements of a grant proposal and strategies for effective writing. Requirements: enrollment in microbiology graduate program, or enrollment in a graduate program training in a microbiology and immunology department laboratory, or enrollment in a biological science graduate program and not working in a microbiology and immunology department laboratory for thesis project.

MICR:6267 Graduate Viruses and Human Disease | 4 S.H.
Infection and replication strategies of viruses with an emphasis on human disease; discussion focuses on topics and techniques used in primary literature and development of specific aims for a mini-proposal.

MICR:6268 Biology and Pathogenesis of Viruses | 2 S.H.
Molecular biology of animal DNA and RNA viruses, viral immunology and pathogenesis, and interaction of these viruses with eucaryotic cells; mechanisms of viral latency, persistence, cellular transformation, oncogenesis; virology literature. Prerequisites: MICR:3168 or MICR:6267.

MICR:6269 Graduate Virology Discussion | 1 S.H.
Discussion of primary virology literature from a range of topics, may include techniques used for studying viruses, viral entry and replication, evasion of immune responses by viruses, vaccines, and viral pathogenesis; short presentations; development of specific aims for a mock grant proposal on a virology-related topic. Recommendations: completion of a virology course.

MICR:6270 Graduate Microbial Genetics | 2 S.H.
Genetics of bacteria and bacteriophages including classical, molecular, and genome-wide approaches.

MICR:7207 Advanced Topics in Immunology | 3 S.H.
In-depth analysis of selected areas. Prerequisites: IMMU:6201 or MICR:6201. Same as IMMU:7221.

MICR:7261 Graduate Research in Microbiology | ARR
Requirements: microbiology graduate standing.
MICR:7263 Graduate Student Research Seminar 1 s.h.
Presentation of thesis work in progress. Requirements: microbiology graduate standing.

MICR:7265 Topics in Virology Literature 1 s.h.
Papers of current interest in primary virology literature.

MICR:8230 Dental Microbiology 3 s.h.