

**CHM1448 - Modelling of Biochemical Systems**

**Fall 2024**

Prof. David McMillen

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Tuesdays, 11am to 1pm, fully online.

Classes will be held on Zoom, link to be provided via Quercus.

*An introduction to mathematical modelling of complex biological systems. The default focus will be on biochemical kinetic models and the nonlinear dynamics that arise from them, but different topics can be addressed to align with individual students' interests. A brief survey of relevant techniques will be provided, followed by an independent study project.*

The course is a one-term research project/directed independent study course. Each student will do some background reading and pick a biological system to study using computation and analysis. After some initial introductory lectures, we will use the remainder of the sessions as time to consult on the ongoing projects, where I can offer suggestions and advice, and point out resources useful to your individual project. The central advantage of this approach is that it offers students the opportunity to pursue a variety of different approaches, each chosen to fit with their individual background: if your background is heavier in chemistry or physics or biology, we can tailor the project to emphasize aspects of your chosen system that match your skills. Everyone is expected to incorporate some mathematical modelling, of course, but a chemist might concentrate on the molecular machinery or chemical kinetics, a physicist might focus on the nonlinear dynamics or stochastic process aspects, while a biologist might go into more depth on the underlying biological mechanisms.

**Textbook:** *Mathematical Modeling in Systems Biology: An Introduction*, by Brian P. Ingalls (MIT Press, 2013). The text is a very clear summary of modelling approaches, so it's a valuable resource quite apart from its use as a source of suggested readings: you can find all these things online, but rarely explained so clearly or so neatly collected into one place. Prof. Ingalls is perfectly OK with people using the PDF preprint version of the text that he's posted at <https://www.math.uwaterloo.ca/~bingalls/MMSB/> (I've talked to him about this).

**Assessment and Grading**

Project proposal (due October 4 2024) – 20%

Initial project report (due November 8 2024) – 20%

Final report (due January 6 2025) – 25%

Final presentation (to be scheduled, but close to January 6 2025) – 25%

Participation/engagement (being prepared for and engaged in project discussions) – 10%

### ***COURSE POLICIES***

Each member of this course is expected to maintain a:

- (i) professional and respectful attitude during all course activities, including classes, laboratories, tutorials, and other online activities.
- (ii) personal calendar/schedule/organizer to ensure that all course activities are completed, and due dates are met.
- (iii) collection of notes recorded independently based on concepts covered in course activities (students registered with Accessibility Services requiring a class note-taker will have access to this accommodation)
- (iv) familiarity with the university policy on Academic Integrity

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. The CHM1448 teaching team will neither condone nor tolerate behaviour that undermines the dignity or self-esteem of any individual in this course and we wish to be alerted to any attempt to create an intimidating or hostile environment. It is our collective responsibility to create a space that is inclusive and welcomes discussion. Discrimination, harassment, and hate speech will not be tolerated. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, we encourage you to reach out to the staff in our [Equity Offices](#).

### **INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES AND SUPPORT**

#### ***ACADEMIC INTEGRITY***

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The [University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](#) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources (see [www.academicintegrity.utoronto.ca/](http://www.academicintegrity.utoronto.ca/)).

#### **COPYRIGHT**

If a student wishes to copy or reproduce class presentations, course notes or other similar materials provided by instructors, he or she must obtain the instructor's written consent beforehand. Otherwise, all such reproduction is an infringement of copyright and is absolutely prohibited. More information regarding this is available here: <https://teaching.utoronto.ca/ed-tech/audio-video/copyright-considerations/>

**ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS**

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility: if you require accommodations for a disability, or have any other accessibility concerns about the course, please contact [Accessibility Services](#) as soon as possible.

**ACCOMMODATIONS FOR RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES**

Following the University's policies, reasonable accommodations will be made for students who observe religious holy days that coincide with the due date/time of an assignment, tutorial, class or laboratory session. Students must inform the instructor before the session/assignment date to arrange accommodations.

**ADDITIONAL SERVICES & SUPPORT**

The following are some important links to help you with academic and/or technical service and support:

- School of Graduate Studies' [Policies and Guidelines](#)
- Full library service and resources on conducting online research through University of Toronto Libraries [University Libraries Research](#)
- Resources on academic support from the [Academic Success Centre](#)
- Learner support at the [Writing Centre](#)
- Information for [Technical Support/Quercus Support](#)

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL LANDS**

We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years, it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca and, most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.