

**LIFS 4090 DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY**  
**Fall 2020 Course Outline**

**Instructor:** Prof. Yan YAN, Rm5511, 23585929, yany@ust.hk  
**Lecture Time:** Tuesday 15:00-16:20, Thursday 15:00-16:20  
**Venue:** Zoom

**General Course Description:** This course introduces the processes and underlying mechanisms of animal development on molecular, cellular, tissue, and organ levels. In the first part of the course, we will discuss classic embryonic development topics such as fertilization, gastrulation and patterning formation as examples to highlight principles governing animal development. The second part of the course will focus on current research topics in organogenesis, stem cell self-renewal and differentiation, growth control, regeneration and aging.

**Key Learning Outcomes of the Course:**

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Be familiar with common operational principles, key molecular players and modulating factors in developmental biology.
2. Have the ability to comprehend and evaluate current literature on a variety of developmental biology context.
3. Solve specific biological questions framed under a developmental platform by
  - Integrating the developmental principles in specific model systems
  - Designing experiment logically
4. Integrate their prior knowledge of genetics, cell, biochemistry and molecular biology to analyze processes and mechanisms guiding the making of a functional life form.
5. Communicate their theoretical interpretation of experimental data and findings effectively in oral presentation and writing.

**Course Format:** Two 1.5-hour sessions per week. These will include lectures, student presentations and discussion periods. Grades will be based on midterm exam (40%), presentation (15%), and final exam (45%).

**Key Reference book:**

S.F. Gilbert, Developmental Biology, 12th edition. Earlier versions are also good.  
Lewis Wolpert, Principles of Development, 6<sup>th</sup> edition. Earlier versions are also good.

**Prerequisite:** Senior UG students and Graduate students with sufficient background on Genetics, Cell, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

**Course Calendar:**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>
<b>1</b>	Introduction and Gametogenesis
<b>2</b>	Early embryo development I: Cell division
<b>3</b>	Early embryo development II: Pattern formation
<b>4</b>	Gastrulation I: Differentiation
<b>5</b>	Gastrulation II: Morphogenesis
<b>6</b>	Organogenesis I: Limb development
<b>7</b>	Midterm review/exam
<b>8</b>	Organogenesis II: Eye, Heart, Lung, and Organoid
<b>9</b>	Organogenesis III: Neural development
<b>10</b>	Stem cells and regeneration
<b>11</b>	Growth control/Aging
<b>12</b>	Plant development
<b>13</b>	Final review