

History of Molecular Biology

MCB 149 and History of Science

The field of molecular biology revolutionized our understanding of how living systems work. How did this revolution come about? We delve into just over four decades (1943-1987) of breathtaking discoveries and historic publications that wrought this transformation.

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Guest lecturers: The syllabus will be updated with guest lectures by leading figures in the history of molecular biology.

Readings: Classic research articles and eBook, The River Divides into Thousands of Branches, the Early History of Molecular Biology, written by the instructor

<https://scalar.fas.harvard.edu/the-20th-century-revolution-in-biology-v2/index>

Meeting times: MW 4:30-5:45, Northwest Building B108

Fall 2024

Students can expect to do well in the course by delving into the life and science of a molecular biologist of their choosing in a term paper, by reading the historic publications discussed in the course, and by participating in section.

Recommended preparation: Life and Physical Sciences A or Life Sciences 1A or Life Sciences 1B or Life Sciences 50 or the equivalent