HARVARD
DIVISION OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

Spring 2026
Quarter Courses

Referred to as "Half Term" in GSAS Academic Calendar

Spring Session 1 (Half-Term QC's): January 26 – March 13
Spring Recess: March 14 – March 22
Spring Session 2 (Half-Term QC's): March 23 – April 29

PRIORT TERM ENROLLMENT DEADLINES

Crimson Carts Open	Oct. 22
Course Registration Opens	Nov. 5
Course Registration Closes	Nov. 19
Spring 1 Registration Closes	Nov. 19
Check-In Open	Jan. 6
Check-in Closes	Jan. 26
Open Add/Drop Opens	Jan. 12
Open Add/Drop Closes	Feb. 2
Spring 1 Begins	Jan. 26
Spring 1 Add/Drop Deadline	Feb. 12
(last day to drop a course without a W/D on trans.)	
Spring 1 Withdraw Deadline (no fees)	Mar. 13
Spring 1 Classes End	Mar. 13
Spring recess	Mar. 14 – Mar. 22
Spring 2 Begins	Mar. 23
Spring 2 Add/Drop Deadline	Apr. 9
(last day to drop a course without a W/D on trans.)	
Spring 2 Withdraw Deadline	Apr. 29
Spring 2 Classes End	Apr. 29

GSAS ACADEMIC CALENDAR

https://registrar.fas.harvard.edu/calendars

REMINDERS

IMPORTANT NOTE: QC's are **SPRING 1** and **SPRING 2** courses on the calendar – important dates may vary from FULL TERM course dates.

Prior to ADD/DROP in JANUARY: you **cannot register for or revise** existing courses until you **CHECK-IN** (or go to: https://registrar.fas.harvard.edu/check-in)

Register for **16 credits** for full-time student status and health insurance eligibility

Register by going to https://my.harvard.edu/

For questions, contact: dms_courses@hms.harvard.edu

Updated 10/30/25

GENETIC 305QC CRISPR genome editing techniques and applications
Manda Arbab, Richard Sherwood

IMMUN 301QC Autoimmunity
Michael Wheeler

IMMUN 305QC Neuroimmune interactions in health and disease
Isaac Chiu, Jun Huh

MED-SCI 309QC The Past in the Present: Race and Racism in Science and Health
Evelyn Hammond, Deepali Ravel

NEUROBIO 322QC: Advances in synaptic, cellular and circuit neuroscience
Pascal Kaeser, Wade Regehr

Updated 10/30/25

Genetics

GENETIC 305QC CRISPR genome editing techniques and applications

Manda Arbab, Richard Sherwood

Full Term QC
2 units. Instructor consent is required.

T., 12:00PM – 1:30PM
Meeting Dates: January 26 – April 29
Meeting Location: Longwood campus - instructor to provide location

CRISPR genome editing has revolutionized the study of genetics and has shown promise to treat genetic disease at its roots. This course will provide an overview on how CRISPR-based genome editing tools work, how they are used to unravel the genetics of complex disease, and how they are being deployed to ameliorate genetic diseases. The course will combine lectures from experts on the development and use of CRISPR-based tools with seminars on the practical application of and ethical issues surrounding genome editing.

Course Notes: Strong background in genetics expected. Course expected to be offered annually. The structure of this course also includes a discussion component. Any additional details about this component will be provided by the course faculty.

Course Heads: Richard Sherwood, RSHERWOOD@BWH.HARVARD.EDU; Mandana Arbab, Mandana.Arbab@childrens.harvard.edu

Immunology

IMMUN 301QC Autoimmunity

Michael Wheeler

Full Term QC
2 units

T., 3:00pm – 5:00pm
Meeting Dates: January 27 – May 5

Meeting Location: Longwood campus - instructor to provide location

This course will focus on basic immunological mechanisms of autoimmune diseases, with an emphasis on recent advances in the field. At each session, we will focus on a particular topic and discuss three important publications.

Course Head: Michael Wheeler, mwheeler0@bwh.harvard.edu

IMMUN 305QC Neuroimmune interactions in health and disease

Isaac Chiu, Jun Huh

Spring 1 QC
2 units

F., 1:30pm-3:30pm
Meeting Dates: Jan 30 – March 27
Schedule Varies: 1/30/26, 2/6/26, 2/13/26, 2/20/26, 2/27/26, 3/6/26, 3/13/25, 3/27/25
Meeting Location: Longwood campus - instructor to provide location

Bidirectional communication between the nervous system and the immune system plays a significant role in homeostasis and disease. Neurons and immune cells crosstalk within the central nervous system and in peripheral tissues, mediating homeostasis, barrier protection, and host defense. This course will investigate current topics in neuro-immunology such as: Neuron-glia interactions, CNS development, microglia, brain border tissues, pain, neurodegeneration, cytokines and behavior, autoimmunity, and host defense. Dysregulation in neuroimmune communication underlies both neurological and immunological diseases. Guest lecturers will give seminars on each topic in neuroimmunology, followed by class discussion on papers in the field.

Class Note: Each class will cover a specific topic in neuro-immunology. Students should be prepared to lead discussions on pre-selected papers for each session.
Course Heads: Isaac Chiu, isaac_chiu@hms.harvard.edu, Jun Huh, jun_huh@hms.harvard.edu

MEDICAL SCIENCES

MED-SCI 309QC The Past in the Present: Race and Racism in Science and Health

Evelynn Hammonds, Deepali Ravel

Spring 1 QC
2 units. Enrollment limited to 30. Instructor consent required.

W., 10:00am -11:30am
Meeting Dates: January 28 – April 29
Meeting Location: Longwood campus - instructor to provide location

This course will introduce students to the historical context that has shaped and continues to shape contemporary health disparities in the United States. Scientific, medical and public health theory and practices emerged in the racialized society of the United States in the 18th century and have persisted from the past into the present day. The overarching goal of the course is to provide foundational language, historical context, and analytical skills to support students' ability to rigorously identify and address race-based health disparities that are so evident in biomedical research, public health, and medicine today.

The goals of the course are to prepare students to:
·Describe the concept of race and how the scientific/health fields have contributed to its construction
· Describe the impacts of structural racism on the production of health disparities
· Describe how race as a population descriptor has been used in medicine and research in the past and the present
· Analyze how inaccurate assumptions about the biological basis of race can lead to research design and interpretation that lacks rigor and reproducibility and creates or perpetuates racial health inequities
· Critically evaluate the specific ways your own field/discipline contributes to these inequities
· Identify principles for designing rigorous, reproducible research that does not perpetuate racial health inequities

Course Head: Evelynn Hammonds, evelynn_hammonds@harvard.edu
Other Instructor: Deepali Ravel, Deepali_Ravel@hms.harvard.edu

NEUROBIOLOGY

NEUROBIO 322QC: Advances in synaptic, cellular and circuit neuroscience

Pascal Kaeser, Wade Regehr

Full Term QC
2 units. Enrollment limited to 10. Instructor consent required.

T., 8:45am – 10:45am
Meeting Dates: January 27 – April 28
Meeting Location: Goldenson Building, Rm. 318

In this literature analysis course, students will read, analyze, present and discuss primary research literature on synaptic, cellular and circuit neuroscience. The principal goals are to (a) enhance the students' understanding of the current state of knowledge of neuroscience, and (b) to provide experience in reviewing, critiquing and presenting primary research articles. The course is integrated with an existing journal club that was initiated in the Kaeser and Regehr laboratories and that attracts additional members of the broader neurobiology research community. In addition to the participation in the journal club, the course participants will obtain a brief conceptual introduction to each paper by a teaching assistant before the journal club, and they will participate in an extended Q&A and discussion session after each journal club, such that the discussed paper can be embedded with related current concepts on each topic.

Course Notes: The course consists of an introduction (8.45-9.15), a journal club with additional participants (9.15-10.15), and a Q&A session with a teaching assistant and/or instructor (10.15-10.45)
Recommended Prep: Students should have completed NB215 or a similar foundational neuroscience course.

Course Heads: Pascal Kaeser, kaeser@hms.harvard.edu, Wade Regehr, wade_regehr@hms.harvard.edu
Additional Instructors: Ozge Demet Ozcete, Kathleen Beeson