Goals of the Course
1. Develop a firm understanding of the fundamentals of biomedical imaging, including an appreciation for the common principles underlying the various modalities.
2. Gain a basic understanding of the physical principles underlying the major modalities, including X-ray, computed tomography, and MRI.
3. Introduction to current research applications.

Brief History of Medical Imaging
1895 - Roentgen discovers X-rays
1942 - Dussik demonstrates transmission ultrasound in the brain.
1946 - Bloch and Purcell discover nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR)
1972 - Hounsfield develops the first computed tomography scanner.
1973 - Lauterbur invents magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)
1974 - Ledley develops the first whole body CT scanner.
X-Rays

8 November 1895, Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen discovers X-rays. Receives first Nobel Prize in Physics in 1901.

22 November 1895 X-ray of Mrs. Roentegen’s hand.

X-Ray

An early X-ray imaging system

X-Ray

Computed Tomography

1917 Johann Radon establishes the mathematical framework for tomography, now called the Radon transform.


1972 Godfrey Hounsfield develops first CT system. Unaware of either Radon or Cormack’s work, develops his own reconstruction method.

1979 Hounsfield and Cormack receive the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.
Computed Tomography

Virtual Colonoscopy As Good As Other Colon Cancer Screening Methods, Study Finds

ScienceDaily (Sep. 23, 2006) — CT colonography (CTC), known as virtual colonoscopy, is as accurate at screening for colorectal cancers and pre-cancerous polyps as conventional colonoscopy, the current screening standard, according to the National CT Colonography Trial, a nationwide multi-center study that included the San Francisco VA Medical Center.
History of Ultrasound

1942  Dr. Karl Theodore Dussik
Transmission ultrasound investigation of the brain
First published work on medical ultrasonics.

Holmes and Howry, 1955
Subject submerged in water tank to achieve good acoustic coupling.
Image of normal neck.

Automatic scanner, Glasgow, ca 1959.
Image shows twin gestation sacs (s) and bladder (B).

Ultrasound Systems

Acuson Sequoia
Doppler Ultrasound

3D Ultrasound

History of MRI

1946: Felix Bloch (Stanford) and Edward Purcell (Harvard) demonstrate nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR)


History of MRI

Late 1970’s: First human MRI images

Early 1980’s: First commercial MRI systems

1993: functional MRI in humans demonstrated
MRI System

Image Contrast

MR Angiography
Perfusion Imaging with ASL

Cardiac Imaging

Cardiac Tagging

Functional MRI
Diffusion MRI Tractography
from the Human Connectome Project