

BIL 104

Genetics and Society

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On line office hours: 4:00 ~ 5:00 pm on Monday and Wednesday

SYLLABUS

Course Objectives.

This is an introductory Genetics course, covering some most basic concepts in life science. Genetics - the explanation of how organisms pass on traits of anatomy, physiology, and behavior to their descendants and of how each individual expresses those traits in its formation and throughout its life. Genetics concerns the central problem of biology. Which is to say, as we gain fuller understanding of the transmission and expression of hereditary characters we progressively unlock understanding of whole classes of other problems in biology, and ultimately, the process of evolution. Though no one supposes that genetic analysis will be sufficient to explain everything we want to know in these vast scientific domains, every biologist recognizes that genetics is necessary to all such explanation. Necessary in two ways: genetics supplies essential components of the accounts biologists seek and provides crucial methods of access to the rest.

Textbook. "Human Genetics" 7th, 8th or 9th edition by Ricki Lewis

The course consists of 13 units of instruction. Second book required for this course is "Mapping Human History: Genes, Race, and Our Common Origins" by Steve Olson. Currently, the price for this book at amazon.com is \$9.66.

Dimensions of Evaluation. Your final grade points include your grade points from taking and completing 19 **unit quizzes and a final exam**. The unit quizzes and the final exam are posted to the **assessments** folder on Blackboard. You should read the on line course documents, including various web links on a daily base, and take the quiz as you finish the reading of each unit, and take the module exam as you finish the module. There are also required discussion thread activities, please make sure to join the discussion board and join each discussion. The drop box assignments can be sent to me directly to my e-mail address: yunqiu@miami.edu

The drop box assignment, the discussion thread activities, and other online assignments and study activities, i.e. web link activities, self check practice exams, electronic portfolio are self exam tools to see how much you have learned from each topic, and also serves as a feedback to me. The completion and satisfied answer of these assignments could help move you up to a letter grade. **These assignments can also be submitted to me directly via e-mail.**

70% of your final grade points will come from the total percentage of your unit quiz grades;

30% of your final grade will come from the total percentage of your final exam.

Your final grade in letter form will be determined based on the following scale:

90 % or more = A

80% or more = B

70% or more = C

60% or more = D

Lower than 60% = F

This grading scale will be applied only at the end of the course, and does not apply to individual exams. The instructor reserves the right to make fine adjustments on the grading scale at the end of the term.

Quiz and module exam

All quiz and exam will consist of multiple choice questions and true/false, similar in format to the questions students encounter in each of the units of instruction.

Students may be tested on *anything* covered in the online course, audio lectures, required readings, external website information or discussion posts created by the professor.

Please Note: All required study work, all quizzes and the final exam are expected to be completed by **Friday, August, 5, 2016 at 5:00 pm**. All quizzes and exams will be submitted via the Blackboard for the instructor to grade.

Class Discussions and Activities

Each unit contains at least one discussion activity. These class discussions are important for developing a social learning community and a successful online course. They also reflect your class participation, so you are required to participate in the discussion thread.

Student discussions (on the Class Blackboard) are moderated by the instructor. Also, the instructor may pose questions for your thoughtful discussion and response. However, the primary purpose is for students to initiate questions and carry on discussions with each other. Your active participation not only demonstrates an understanding and appreciation of the subject matter (or lack thereof), it also contributes immensely to the overall learning experience (for all

students) in this course. Consequently, all students are expected to participate in a helpful and constructive manner in each unit's discussion thread(s).

All postings are expected to be professional in tone, clear, competently produced and delivered; and their content should reflect an understanding of at least the lectures and assigned readings.

Failure to participate with requisite regularity and sagacity may result in a loss of points, up to one full letter grade, at the instructor's sole discretion.

In addition to the discussion threads, each unit contains matching and fill-in-the-blank activities. Students are expected to do the required course work on a weekly basis. Preparation and participation (discussion threads and activities) can contribute materially to a good grade in this course.

It is strongly recommended that students complete TWO units per week. This will ensure uniform participation by students in the discussion threads and timely completion of all course requirements.

University of Miami Honor Code

You are required to follow the University of Miami Honor Code, established for students to protect the academic integrity of the University of Miami. Please review the [Undergraduate Honor Code](#).

(http://umcontent.com/UM_HighEd_2010/AFS101/undergrad_honorcode.pdf)

Contact your instructor if you have any questions or concerns.