

Syllabus

Introductory Genetics Lab

Professor Information

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Office Hours: By Appointment (can be by phone)

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If I am in my office when you call, I will answer phone. Do not leave voice mail message if I do not answer. Email me, putting your name and specific course in the subject line of email. I usually respond within a few hours, depending on what time the email is sent.

Course Description And Purpose

An online complement to the concepts behind the information presented in PCB2061 Lecture: The study of biologically inherited traits from three perspectives. (i) Mendelian Genetics: the rules of genetic transmission and heredity. (ii) Molecular Genetics: the biochemical and chromosomal basis of heredity. (iii) Population & Evolutionary Genetics: the variation in genes among individuals and populations, heritability, and changes in genes over time. This online Lab will use virtual scenarios that will allow you to explore experiments that help clarify student misconceptions in genetics and evolution.

The concepts behind genetics serve as the foundation upon which much of modern science stands. Concepts and principles applied in the online lab are reflected in many professions and will also serve as basic platform for your understanding of how genetics affects us in our daily lives. You should finish the semester with a more complete grasp of genetic paradigms, along with a better understanding of genetic similarities and differences among individuals and species.

Course Objectives

In completing this course, the student will:

- participate in virtual exercises that will supplement and enrich the text portion of the course;
- develop critical thinking skills;
- enhance skills for studying patterns of genetic inheritance and gene expression;
- improve mastery of the design a well-controlled experiment;
- students will be able to inter-relate chromosome behavior during meiosis with the key rules of inheritance: segregation of alleles, independent assortment, sex linkage, linkage, and maternal inheritance;
- students will combine their knowledge of probability theory with the rules of inheritance to do pedigree analysis and accurately predict genetic outcomes; and
- students will develop an appreciation of how genes work within organisms and will be able to use this knowledge to understand and predict phenotypic ratios.

Important Information

Policies

Please review the [FIU's Policies](#) webpage. The policies webpage contains essential information regarding guidelines relevant to all courses at FIU, as well as additional information about acceptable netiquette for online courses.

Technical Requirements and Skills

One of the greatest barriers to taking an online course is a lack of basic computer literacy. By computer literacy we mean being able to manage and organize computer files efficiently, and learning to use your computer's operating system and software quickly and easily. Keep in mind that this is not a computer literacy course; but students enrolled in online courses are expected to have moderate proficiency using a computer. Please go to the "[What's Required](#)" webpage to find out more information on this subject.

Please visit our [Technical Requirements](#) webpage for additional information.

Accessibility And Accommodation

The Disability Resource Center collaborates with students, faculty, staff, and community members to create diverse learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive and sustainable. The DRC provides FIU students with disabilities the necessary support to successfully complete their education and participate in activities available to all students. If you have a diagnosed disability and plan to utilize academic accommodations, please contact the Center at 305-348-3532 or visit them at the Graham Center GC 190.

Please visit our [ADA Compliance](#) webpage for information about accessibility involving the tools used in this course.

Please visit [Accessibility within Canvas](#) webpage for more information.

For additional assistance please contact FIU's [Disability Resource Center](#).

Academic Misconduct Statement

Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly to demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Handbook.

Academic Misconduct includes: **Cheating** – The unauthorized use of books, notes, aids, electronic sources; or assistance from another person with respect to examinations, course assignments, field service reports, class recitations; or the unauthorized possession of examination papers or course materials, whether originally authorized or not. **Plagiarism** – The use and appropriation of another's work without any indication of the source and the representation of such work as the student's own. Any student who fails to give credit for ideas, expressions or materials taken from another source, including internet sources, is responsible for plagiarism.

Learn more about the [academic integrity policies and procedures](#) as well as [student resources](#) that can help you prepare for a successful semester.

Course Prerequisites

There are no pre-requisites for this course. PCB2061 Lab, in combination with the PCB2061 Lecture, fulfill the Group II Natural Science University Core Curriculum requirement.

Proctored Exam Policy

There are no Proctored or on-campus exams for this course.

Expectations Of This Course

This is an online course, which means most (if not all) of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same for a traditional course. In

fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

Students are expected to:

- **Review the how to get started information** located in the course content
- **Introduce yourself to the class** during the first week by posting a self-introduction in the appropriate discussion forum.
- **Take the practice quiz** to ensure that your computer is compatible with Canvas
- **Take Student/Instructor Quiz as many times as necessary to earn a perfect score. This Quiz acts to certify your knowledge of the course rules and deadlines and your acceptance of said rules.**
- **Interact** online with Instructor/s and peers
- **Review** and follow the course calendar for due dates and times. **All material in this specific course opens and closes at 9AM.** If you have a smart phone, put those dates and times with alerts in your phone so you do not miss them.
- Log in to the course as many times **as necessary to keep up with the work and complete scored material by the closing date and time**
- Regularly check your registered FIU email and Canvas page for course Announcements.

SimBio Virtual Lab

It is important that you review the information below *before* you subscribe to the SimUText for **Introductory Genetics Lab** at **Florida International University**. **To avoid possible problems, do not wait until the last minute.** Below is the Welcome and some information you need to follow to enter into the SimBio world. This portion of the Lab will cost **\$49.00** and will be paid directly to the SimBio organization on their website. **IF YOU ARE NOT IN AGREEMENT OR CANNOT PURCHASE ACCESS TO THIS WEBSITE, YOU NEED TO DROP THE COURSE.**

It is important that you review the information below *before* you subscribe to the SimUText for **Introductory Genetics Lab** at **Florida International University**. **To avoid possible problems, do not wait until the last minute.**

- CHECK YOUR TECH! Visit <https://simutext.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/categories/200170134-Check-Your-Tech> to confirm that the SimUText application will work on your computer, and/or to explore your options if there is a problem.
- If you purchased a SimUText Voucher from your bookstore, be sure to have it with you when subscribing, as you will need to enter your voucher code.
- When you are ready to subscribe and download installers, follow this link to initiate the process: <https://www.simutext.com/student/register.html#/key/UkTg-5YXG-TvKq-MXat-BmwA>

- After you have completed the subscription process, if you need to download the SimUText application installers again, you will be able to access them by logging into the [SimUText Student Portal](https://www.simutext.com/student) (https://www.simutext.com/student).

Save this email! Should you encounter problems, you may need your course-specific Access Key. It is: **UkTg-5YXG-TvKq-MXat-BmWA**

Problems or questions? Visit [SimUText Support](http://simbio.com/support/simutext) (http://simbio.com/support/simutext)

Course Detail

Course Communication

Students are expected to check their FIU email regularly as it is the only way online Faculty can notify the class of important information. All emails must include in the subject area your name and which specific course you are emailing about. You can message within Canvas (Inbox) and follow up that message with an email to walterm@fiu.edu.

The instructor will:

- Log in to the course at least **3 times a week**.
- Respond to **emails or messages** within **72 hours**.

Discussion Forums

Currently, there are no planned Discussions in the Lab. You may always use the Discussion Board to introduce yourself to the rest of the class or ask the class a question.

Assessments

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the "Practice Quiz" from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. It is your responsibility to make sure your computer meets the minimum [hardware requirements](#).

Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet. If you need further assistance please contact [FIU Online Support Services](#).

Canvas Quiz and Exam Expectations:

- Please note that the semester is divided into two periods. Within each period, the Labs (similar to the Lecture Units in PCB2061) open in two blocks of time. Just as the Labs open in a block, the 5 Labs (Canvas quizzes and SimBio Lab Exercises) in the first half

of the semester all close on the same day and time: **August 24 at 9am till October 5, 9am.** Exam 1 opens on **October 5 and closes on October 12 at 9am.** The second half of the semester follows the same pattern with Labs 6 -10 (Canvas Quizzes and SimBio Lab Exercises) opening on **October 12, and closing on November 23 at 9am.** Exam 2 opens on **November 23 at 9am and closes on November 30 at 9am.**

- Quiz duration: 30 minutes
- Exam duration: 1 hour
- Quiz and Exam links are seen on the Home page
- Details for results:
 1. Students will be able to see the results immediately after Quiz or Exam.
 2. Students will be able to see the total earned score only.
 3. Students may take each Quiz or Exam 2 times. But if you choose to do so, you will receive the **average** of the two scores. Questions on the second attempt may be different from the first attempt.
- Each student will be required to enter into a "course contract" with the Instructor by taking the STUDENT/INSTRUCTOR CONTRACT QUIZ found on the Course Content page and under Assessments. This contract specifies that you have read the Syllabus and therefore understand the time frame for completion of the Exams, Quizzes, and Discussion Postings. You do not receive points for this quiz. ***But completing it and earning a perfect score is a requirement.*** You may take the quiz as many times as is required for you to earn a perfect score.

Assignments

Each Lab will either have a SimBio Exercise (9 Labs out of 10) or a Virtual Lab Exercise (1 Lab out of 10). You will do all SimBio Exercises on the SimBio website and then the program will convey your points to me. I will transfer these scores to my Canvas Graderoll and you will be able to see those points in the Canvas MyGrades page. As we move forward with this set-up, I will send you messages and announcements (you will receive as email and will see on Canvas) concerning the program and how I see it progressing.

The SimBio Exercises may include scored questions and review/practice questions. BE SURE to DO all of the questions as I will average the two scores to determine your earned score for the Exercise.

Grading

Quite often, students select online classes because of travel plans during the semester or other potential scheduling conflicts. I will NOT customize the course to fit your specific plans. Be sure

to see when material closes. If these dates are going to present a problem for you, drop the course while you can get back all your money. Baring hurricanes and other natural disasters, there will be no extensions on the closing dates for the **Chapter quizzes or Exams**. Please refer to the dates in the calendar below. Each student is allowed to take a quiz or Exam 2 times. **But if they do take it two times, they receive the average of the two scores.**

- If you have an emergency that prevents you from accessing the material (minimum total time period: the last 3 weeks of the ~6 weeks for quizzes and assignments and the last 5 days for exams), the Instructor **MUST** be contacted (at least 2 weeks for Quizzes and 3 days for Exams) before the closing of the material. These circumstances must be supported with official documentation such as the official hospital records showing day of admittance and release or police records showing day or arrest and release.
- If you choose to wait till the last few days (or hours) to do the work and something prevents you from completing the work (including an emergency), the material **WILL NOT** be reopened. By making the choice to wait, you are also accepting the possibility that (Murphy's Law) "If anything can go wrong, it will" and always at the worst possible time.

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Available	Weight
Canvas Quizzes	10	100		30%
Exams	2	100		35%
Discussion/Participation				0%
Assignments (9 SimBio, 1 Virtual)	10			35%
Total	22			100%

Letter	Range (%)	Letter	Range (%)	Letter	Range (%)
A	93 or above	B	83 - 86	C	70 - 76
A-	90 - 92	B-	80 - 82	D	60 - 69
B+	87 - 89	C+	77 - 79	F	59 or less

Course Calendar

Suggested Schedule

Semester's Schedule

Please note:

While the material opens in blocks of time (first half of semester, Labs 1-5 and second half of semester, Labs 6-10, the suggested work pattern is to do at least one Lab per week. **If you choose to wait until the last few days or hours to complete your work, you are taking the chance of having something preventing you from completing the work, much to your unhappiness, since the work will not be reopened.**

If you have a Quiz or Exam scheduling conflict, let me know **in advance**. While I will **not** customize the course to fit your schedule, I **may** be able to open a Quiz or Exam early. **YOU MUST NOTIFY ME IN ADVANCE OF A CONFLICT, NOT AFTER THE EXAM HAS CLOSED!** You must provide specific information on why you need a schedule change and the Instructor has the right to either grant or deny the change based on the supporting information. Baring hurricanes and other natural disasters, there will be **no extensions** on the closing dates for the **Chapter quizzes or Exam 1 and Exam 2. Please refer to the opening and closing dates seen below.** Each student is allowed to take a quiz or Exam 2 times. **But if they do take it two times, they receive the average of the two scores.**

If you have an emergency that prevents you from accessing the material (minimum total time period: the last 3 weeks of the ~6 weeks for quizzes and the complete open period for exams), the Instructor **MUST** be contacted (at least 2 weeks for Quizzes and 4 days for Exams) before the closing of the material. These circumstances **must** be supported with **original** documentation such as the official hospital records showing day of admittance and release or police records showing day or arrest and release. **A release or excuse from work/school, such as what is given from FIU's Clinics or an Urgent Care facility will NOT be accepted as an excuse for missing the deadline for quizzes, assignments, or exams.**

*If you choose to wait till the last few days (or hours) to do the work and something prevents you from completing the work (including an emergency), the material **WILL NOT** be reopened. By making the choice to wait, you are also accepting the possibility that (Murphy's Law) "If anything can go wrong, it will" and always at the worst possible time.*

Date	Tasks
August 20	Fall 2018 starts (all material opens & closes 9AM throughout semester) - Student/Instructor Quiz opens
Week 1 August 24 - 31	- Labs 1-5 SimBio Exercises and Canvas quizzes 1-5 open, 9AM, close October 5, 9AM (5 Canvas and 5 Lab Exercises during the 1st half of semester) Suggested work schedule: Complete SimBio Exercise 1 and Canvas Quiz 1 ...both close October 5, 9AM

Week 2 August 31 - September 7	Suggested work schedule: Complete SimBio Exercise 2 and Canvas Quiz 2, both close October 5, 9AM
Week 3 September 7 - 14	Suggested work schedule: Complete SimBio Exercise 3 and Canvas Quiz 3, both close October 5, 9AM
Week 4 September 14 - 21	Suggested work schedule: Complete SimBio Exercise 4 and Canvas Quiz 4, both close October 5, 9AM
Week 5 September 21 - 28	Suggested work schedule: Complete Virtual Lab Exercise 5 and submit write-up through Assignment Dropbox and Canvas Quiz 5, both close October 5, 9AM
Week 6 September 28 - October 5	Catch-up week for Units 1-5; all scored SimBio Lab activities and Canvas quizzes close at 9AM, October 5
October 5	Exam 1 opens at 9AM
October 12	Exam 1 closes at 9AM
Week 7 October 12 - 19	Labs 6-10 open: SimBio Exercises and Canvas quizzes, close July 24 (5 SimBio Exercises and 4 Canvas quizzes during 2nd half of semester.... 9 quizzes and 10 assignments total for semester) Suggested work schedule: Complete SimBio Exercise 6 and Canvas Quiz 6, both close November 23, 9AM
Week 8 October 19 - 26	Suggested work schedule: Complete SimBio Exercise 7 and Canvas Quiz 7, both close November 23, 9AM
Week 9 October 26 - November 2	Suggested work schedule: Complete SimBio Exercise 8 and Canvas Quiz 8, both close November 23, 9AM
Week 10 November 2 - 9	Suggested work schedule: Complete SimBio Exercise 9. There is NO Canvas quiz for this Lab. SimBio Exercise closes November 23, 9AM
Week 11 November 9 - 16	Suggested work schedule: Complete SimBio Exercise 10 and Canvas Quiz 10, both close November 23, 9AM
Week 12 November 16 - 23	Catch-up for completing all required Lab Exercises and Canvas quizzes for Labs 6-10... all close November 23, 9AM.
November 23	Exam 2 opens 9AM
November 30	Exam 2 closes 9AM