

Human Genomics – PCB4666/ PCB6667
Spring 2025
3 Credits

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Student hours: Thursdays 9 – 10 am EST by Zoom or by individual appt.

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Student hours: Tuesdays 5-6pm EST by Zoom or by individual appt.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Increasingly, researchers and health care providers are mining the genome to uncover the basis of disease susceptibility and treatment. Genome-based strategies are used for the detection, treatment, and prevention of many diseases. This course will discuss the field of genomics, how genome sequence data is obtained and analyzed, and most importantly, what can be learned from an individual's genome. Students will conduct genomics research by working with human genome data and conduct a small analysis of associations between genetic variants and the diet. The course will address cutting-edge research in epigenetics, pharmacogenomics, and molecular diagnostics. The course will also include timely topics such as GMO's, stem cells, genetic testing and genome editing. This course will reinforce fundamental concepts in molecular biology and genetics.

The course will be entirely web-based, and all lectures will be delivered online and asynchronously. The reading assignments, course lecture materials and online activities will be posted each week. There will be a quiz each week over module's material.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To reinforce a solid foundation in molecular biology in order to fully understand how the genome determines traits, including susceptibility to disease.
2. To understand the role of the genome in the development, detection, prevention and treatment of disease.
3. To conduct and interpret basic genomics research approaches and outcomes.
4. To appreciate how advances in biotechnology and genomics are personalizing all aspects of medicine including prevention, diagnostics, and treatment.
5. To frame and to participate in broader discussions of the ethics and complexities of this era of biotechnology and precision medicine.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Textbook: Genetics From Genes to Genomes by Hartwell, Goldberg, Fischer, Hood. 8th Edition. Published by McGraw Hill, 2024. **Recommended but not required.**

Other online resources will be posted.

Minimum technology requirements. The University of Florida expects students to have continuous ongoing access to computer hardware and software appropriate to degree program. Minimum requirements are identified here: <https://it.ufl.edu/it-policies/student-computing-requirements/resources--recommendations/>

Online Proctoring: Honorlock is an online proctoring service that allows students to take exams on-demand 24/7. There are no scheduling requirements. You will need a laptop or desktop computer with a webcam, a microphone, and a photo ID. Honorlock requires Google Chrome browser; furthermore, the Honorlock extension must be added to Chrome. For further information, FAQs, and technical support, please visit [Honorlock](#).

Synchronous meetings and events: Zoom is used in this course for instructor meetings, exam reviews, and any other synchronous communication <https://ufl.zoom.us>.

ASSESSMENTS

Exams. Three proctored, non-cumulative exams will be administered throughout the semester. Each exam is worth 13% of your grade. If an exam is taken without approved proctoring arrangements and without adhering to exam and proctoring criteria, the score will be a zero.

An optional final exam will be given during finals week. The exam will be **cumulative** and can be used to replace a lower in-term exam. Exam windows will be open for 4 days. Because of the exam timeframe, there is no possible conflict with exams from other courses. The windows will open at 8 AM EST and close at 11:59 PM EST. If you live in a different time zone please take this into account. Canvas will cut your exam off at 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time. Exam dates will be posted in Week one.

Quizzes. Brief quizzes will be assigned for each module. Quizzes can be taken up to **two times each** and only your highest score per quiz will be recorded for a grade. Your quiz average will count for **13%** of your final grade. Quizzes cannot be taken late so missed quizzes will count as a zero. However, to enhance flexibility and give a little breathing room, the **2 lowest quiz grades** will be dropped. Missed quizzes are marked as zeros and then count against drop limit. The quiz window closes once the due date passes so students will not have access to quizzes if they have not been attempted at least once. One of the quizzes is a syllabus quiz to make sure the policies and format of the course are understood.

Activities and Assignments. There are 3 assignments and 3 discussion boards throughout the course that ask students to analyze emerging genetic technology, use resources to synthesize a report on genetic disease and analyze real genomic data from an ongoing study to identify associations between genetic variants and dietary traits. The students will then use online tools and resources, including those from NCBI and the primary literature to synthesize a biological hypothesis to support their associations and to contribute to the field of genomics. This combined work is worth 48% of final course grade. More details posted in class.

Grading Policies. We will make an effort to have each assignment posted and graded within 10 days of its due date.

Point Adjustment Requests. Once an assessment is graded and returned, you have 10 calendar days to contest your grade in an email. Any requests for points must include a justification of your response and why it is as complete or better than the correct one. Please note that questions and comments about any quiz/exam question are welcome at any time during the semester for the purposes of understanding and education.

Assessments	% Total Grade
Exams (3 total)	39%
Research Assignments/activities*	48%
Quizzes	13%
	100%

* 48% is divided among a series of individual/group work

Graduate Students - For the research project related assignments, graduate students will receive versions of the assignment that is aligned with expectations of graduate level work emphasizing critical thinking, evaluation of published studies, scientific design and communication.

Grade Scheme

The cutoffs for letter grades will be as follows:

Grade	Range
A	100 % to 93.0%
A-	< 92.99 % to 89.0%
B+	< 88.99 % to 86.0%
B	< 85.99 % to 82.0%
B-	< 81.99 % to 79.0%
C+	< 78.99 % to 76.0%
C	< 75.99 % to 72.0%
C-	< 71.99 % to 69.0%
D+	< 68.99 % to 66.0%
D	< 65.99 % to 62.0%
D-	< 61.99 % to 59.0%
E	< 58.99 % to 0.0%

*Grade rounding will be done as outlined above. (for example, a final grade of 81.95 is a B-)

** It is recommended that you use your own calculations during the semester to get an estimate of your grade.

Please see the UF grading policies at this site: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

PARTICIPATION POLICIES

Requirements for class participation and make-up exams and assignments in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/

- **Quizzes:** There are **no make-ups** for extensions for module quizzes as the two lowest quiz grades will be dropped. Missed quizzes for **any** reason will count as one of your 2 dropped quiz grades.
- **Exams:** Missed exams are marked as a zero.
- **Assignments** will be assessed a late penalty should a student choose to submit the assignment late. More info provided with each assessment. Missed assignments count as a zero.

There are **no make-ups/non penalized extensions** without proper documentation of excused events and prior notification (in the case of excused, scheduled events). See UF policy for excused events.

For UNFORSEEN LIFE EVENTS: For ALL matters that require special consideration, please contact the Office of the Dean of Students and use the process at this link: [https://care.dso.ufl.edu/instructor-notifications/Links to an external site](https://care.dso.ufl.edu/instructor-notifications/Links%20to%20an%20external%20site). They will verify and offer guidance on make-ups, extensions, etc. The final decision on how to proceed is up to instructor discretion.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- After teaching asynchronous online courses for 15 years, I've accumulated some tried and true tips for success in an online course. These are real tips from my past students:
 - Schedule "class times" for yourself. It is important to do the coursework on time each week.
 - Read ALL of the material contained on this site. There is a lot of helpful information that can save you time and help you meet the objectives of the course.
 - Do not wait to ask questions! Waiting to ask a question might cause you to miss a due date.
 - Do not wait for the last minute. Even a little bit a deadline anxiety can affect your performance. Give yourself some breathing room.
 - Always have a backup plan: do you have the power cord ready in case your battery goes down in the middle of an exam? What if your internet is out on the day of any exam?
 - Use the learning objectives to study! (of students who regularly use the learning objectives, 100% said they were extremely helpful and valuable).

UF POLICIES

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu/>) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter that must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

University Policy on Academic Conduct: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Additional Statement on Course Decorum:

Students are encouraged to discuss material with each other from the course, help each other understand concepts, study together, and even discuss assessment questions with each other once the quiz window is closed. However, the following violate the student honor code:

- Have another person complete a quiz/assessment in this course
- Copy another student’s work in this course
- Collaborate with anyone while working on a quiz or assessment in this course unless told otherwise
- Discuss the questions and answers with other students while the assessment window is still open
- Manipulate and/or distribute any materials provided in this course for any purpose (including course lecture slides).

Netiquette and Communication Courtesy: All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions, and chats.

COURSE STRUCTURE AND FLOW

New modules are posted each week of the semester. **For this course, the first day of the module is Monday.** For each module, there will be several items to complete. Click on the link for each item. The first item will always list the **learning objectives**. Keep these in mind as you learn the material. After reading the learning objectives, please go through the material in the order presented. The next item in the list will usually be the reading assignment, followed by the lectures, and links to any online tutorials or modules. After you go through the material in the order presented, you are always free to return and visit any of the content. The pdf of the lecture slides of each module will also be posted for your convenience. This convenience is for students who wish to print out the slides and follow along with the lecture, study the notes later, etc. The lecture slides will only be available in pdf format.

Each module includes a quiz. The quizzes are due on the last day of the module week by 11:59 PM. **For this course, the last day of the module week is Sunday.** The material will be available to you throughout the semester, but once a quiz due date passes, this means that you can no longer access the quiz. If you only attempt a quiz once before due date, that quiz grade is the only one that will count.

List of Topics - *Subject to Change*

- Module 1 - Introduction to Structure and Function of Genome
- Module 2: Mendelian Genetics
- Module 3: Biotechnology and Genome Sequencing
- Module 4: Bioinformatics and Biocuration
- Module 5: Genetic Disease: Common and Complex Disorders
- Module 6 : Advanced Genome Research Techniques and Tools
- Module 7: Epigenomics
- Module 8: Cancer
- Module 9: Genomics and Immunity
- Module 10: Genetic Disease: Detection and Diagnostics
- Module 11: Genetic Disease: Genetic-based therapy
- Module 12: Genetic Disease: Alzheimer's Disease
- Module 13: Precision Medicine and Beyond *LAST MODULE OF COURSE

COURSE EVALUATIONS

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

CANVAS INFORMATION

Canvas is where course content, grades, and communication will reside for this course.

- ufl.instructure.com
- For Canvas, Passwords, or any other computer-related technical support contact the [IT Service Desk](#).
 - 123 123-1234
 - 877 878-8325
 - <http://it.myinstitution.edu>
 - itsupport@myinstitution.edu

GETTING HELP

Technical Difficulties: For issues with technical difficulties for Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>
- (352) 392-HELP (4357)
- Walk-in: HUB 132

Health and Wellness

- **U Matter, We Care:** If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit umatter.ufl.edu to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- **Counseling and Wellness Center:** Visit counseling.ufl.edu or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- **Student Health Care Center:** Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit shcc.ufl.edu.
- **University Police Department:** Visit police.ufl.edu or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- **UF Health Shands Emergency Room/Trauma Center:** For immediate medical care in Gainesville, call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center.

Academic and Student Support

- **Career Connections Center:** 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services career.ufl.edu/.
- **Library Support:** Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask
- **Teaching Center:** 352-392-2010 General study skills and tutoring: teachingcenter.ufl.edu/
- **Writing Studio:** 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers: writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/