**Syllabus**

**Principles of Genetics/BSC324-201/BSC324-202/BSC-203**

**4 credit hours**

**Spring 2015**

**Times/Location**

**Lecture** BSC324-201/202/203 TR 2:00 PM – 3:15 PM S376

**Lab** BSC324-201 M 9:00AM-11:50 AM S381

 BSC324-202 T 9:00AM-11:50 AM S381

 BSC324-203 W 9:00AM-11:50 AM S381

**Instructor**

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**GA**

Shaimar Roselyn Gonzalez

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**University policies**

By enrolling in this course, you agree to the University Policies listed below. Please read the full text of each policy be going to [www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs](http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs) and clicking on “Marshall University Policies.” Or, you can access the policies directly by going to <http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/?page_id=802>

This link contains university policies for Academic Dishonesty/ Excused Absence Policy for Undergraduates/ Computing Services Acceptable Use/ Inclement Weather/ Dead Week/ Students with Disabilities/ Academic Forgiveness/ Academic Probation and Suspension/ Academic Rights and Responsibilities of Students/ Affirmative Action/ Sexual Harassment

**Course Description**

This course will provide students with a general introduction to the science of biological inheritance. We will cover the broad areas of transmission or classical genetics, molecular genetics, population genetics and evolutionary genetics in a coordinated lecture and laboratory format. The laboratory will be a venue for hands-on laboratory experiments and other exercises designed to illustrate key principles in genetics. Additionally the laboratory will be a forum for reviewing material covered in lecture and participating in discussions and practice problem solving sessions.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

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| **Learning outcome** | **Activities (lecture and laboratory)** | **Assessment** |
| *Fundamental principles of transmission genetics* | - Lecture, assigned readings and additional media (lecture)- Group problem solving sessions (laboratory)- Group activities on Mendelian inheritance and Drosophila genetics (laboratory) | - Exams (lecture)- Quizzes (lecture and laboratory)- Lab reports (laboratory) |
| *Fundamental principles of molecular genetics* | - Lecture, assigned readings and additional media (lecture)- Group problem solving sessions (laboratory)- Group activities on DNA barcoding (laboratory) | - Exams (lecture)- Quizzes (lecture and laboratory)- Lab reports (laboratory) |
| *Fundamental principles of population and evolutionary genetics and phylogenetic analysis* | - Lecture, assigned readings and additional media (lecture)- Group problem solving sessions (laboratory)- Group activities genetic drift and phylogenetic analysis (laboratory) | - Exams (lecture)- Quizzes (lecture and laboratory)- Lab reports (laboratory) |
| *Basic understanding of the history of genetic science*  | - Lecture, assigned readings and additional media (lecture) | - Exams (lecture)- Quizzes (lecture and laboratory)- Lab reports (laboratory) |
| *Appreciation of the broader societal impacts of genetics* | - Lecture, assigned readings and additional media (lecture)- Assignment of the 1997 film *GATTACA* to be accompanied by an essay assignment and in class discussion of the broader societal impacts of genetics (lecture) | - In class discussion and essay writing (lecture and laboratory)- Exams (lecture) |
| *Ability to access, analyze and assimilate the scientific literature* | - In class tutorials on bioinformatics and the scientific literature in general with instructions as to what constitutes valid peer-reviewed source material (laboratory) | - Exams (Lecture)- Quizzes (Lecture and laboratory)- Laboratory reports (Laboratory) |
| *Development of scientific writing and communication skills for both specialized and popular audiences* | - In class writing sessions (laboratory)- Student peer review assignments for laboratory reports (laboratory) | - Laboratory reports (laboratory)- Peer reviews (laboratory)- Popular audience essay assignment (lecture)- Class presentation (laboratory) |
| *Basic quantitative skills and statistical data analysis* | - Introduction to basic probability and statistics including classical and Bayesian hypothesis testing (lecture, laboratory)- Statistical problem solving and data analysis activities (lecture, laboratory) | Exams (lecture)Quizzes (lecture, laboratory)Laboratory reports (lecture, laboratory) |

**Required Text**

Hartl, Daniel L. and Ruvolo, Maryellen. 2012. *Genetics: Analysis of Genes and Genomes, 8th edition*. Jones and Bartlett Learning.

Additional supplemental reading of the primary literature will occur in addition to the textbook readings.

No laboratory manual is required. Laboratory activities will be described on handouts to be distributed in class or over Blackboard.

*Additional material*:

**Scitable**

Scitable is an online, collaborative learning resource created by Nature Education and the Nature Publishing Group. The course will use a custom Scitable classroom for additional supplementary readings. To join the classroom *Marshall University Principles of Genetics BSC324* follow the link below, create a Scitable account and join the classroom.

http://www.nature.com/scitable/group-join/marshall-university-principles-of-genetics-bsc324-129429269/13300

**GATTACA (1997)**

You will be assigned the 1997 film GATTACA to watch outside of class. You will also be expected to write an essay concerning the ethics of genetic testing drawing from the themes in the film and participate in an in-class discussion near the end of the semester on ethics and genetics and society. The film is available from a myriad of sources (iTunes, Amazon Instant Video, Marshall University library, etc.) and I encourage you to arrange a time to watch it with your classmates in small groups.

**Student Assessment**

Your grade for the entire course will be an equally weighted combination of your lecture and laboratory grades.

**Grading Policy**

Quizzes – *Lecture* (10 points x 3 = 30 points)

Exams – *Lecture* (100 points x 3 = 300 points)

Final Exam – *Lecture* (100 points)

Essay – *Lecture* (50 points)

Quizzes – *Laboratory* (10 points x 3 = 30 points)

Problem-solving sessions – *Laboratory* (50 points x 3 = 150 points)

Laboratory reports\* - *Laboratory* (100 points x 4 = 400 points)

Laboratory report peer reviews\* – *Laboratory* (10 points x 4 = 40 points)

Presentation\* – *Laboratory* (100 points)

\* Denotes a group assignment

**Total: 1200 points**

A >1080

B 960-1079

C 840-959

D 720-839

F <720

**Extra-credit**

Pre-test – *Lecture* (5 points extra-credit will be awarded for every 5 correct answers with total possible extra-credit points not to exceed 10 points)

Post-test – *Lecture* (5 points extra-credit will be awarded for every 5 correct answers with total possible extra-credit points not to exceed 10 points)

*Additional extra-credit may be made available at the instructor’s discretion.*

**FAQ regarding exams, quizzes, laboratory reports and other assignments:**

**What is the exam format?**

The exams will be a mix of matching, true-false, multiple choice and short-answer problem solving questions. Quizzes will typically consist of short-answer problem solving challenges.

**What is this “pre-test” and “post-test” business?**

The goal of the *pre-test* and *post-test* is to assess where your knowledge of genetics is coming into the course (*pre-test*) and where your knowledge is after the course is completed (*post-test*). This allows me to obtain valuable data on student strengths and weaknesses and adjust the course accordingly. Neither the *pre-test* or *post-test* will negatively affect your overall grade but as an incentive to take them seriously you have the potential to accumulate 10 points of extra-credit points for *each* test (20 points possible across both the *pre-test* and *post-test*)

**Is the final exam cumulative?**

Yes, the final exam will be cumulative and will largely be constructed from versions of questions that have appeared on prior exams. These will not necessarily be exactly the same questions that have appeared on previous exams but studying from your prior exams and understanding why you missed a particular question, or conversely why you got a question correct, will be an excellent study strategy for the final exam.

**How long does my laboratory report need to be?**

There are no hard page limits for writing assignments or hard time limits for presentations. Your work should be as long as you need it to be to clearly cover the material in a thorough but concise manner. Page limits therefore are to be thought of as a rough guide only. Note that longer is not necessarily better. Laboratory reports should be in the range of 3-5 pages excluding a reference section. Laboratory report peer reviews should be 1-2 pages. You are however expected to adhere more strictly to time limits for presentations. Group presentations should be no more than 15 minutes long and no less than 10 minutes.

**Do we just turn in one laboratory report for our lab group?**

Yes, your laboratory group will be responsible for turning in both a single laboratory report for your group and a single peer review for the report for another group in your laboratory section. You will work in groups of 2-3 in the laboratory and turn in laboratory reports, laboratory report peer reviews and presentations as a group. All individuals within a group will receive the same grade for each of these group assignments. If certain individuals in your group are not pulling their weight then you need to discuss this with me and your laboratory graduate assistant (GA).

**I thought this was genetics class? If so why are we talking about statistics?**

Probability and statistical analysis are *absolutely essential* for understanding genetic inheritance. Probability theory lies at the heart of virtually every fundamental concept in genetics and as such you cannot truly understand genetics without some understanding of probability. We will cover the basics of probability and some statistical tools including both classical and Bayesian hypothesis testing during the course.**Course Schedule – Lecture** (*schedule subject to change as needed*)

**January 15** – First day of lecture

**Week of January 19** – Labs start

*Transmission Genetics and DNA*

**January 15 – February 17**

Hartl and Ruvolo Chapters 1-5 (*we will cover these chapters a little out of order starting with chapters 3-5 followed by chapters 1-2*)

**January 29** Quiz I (20 points)

**Week of February 9** Group problem-solving session I (50 points)

**February 17** Exam I (100 points)

*Chromosomes, replication, gene expression and regulation*

**February 19 – March 12**

Hartl and Ruvolo Chapters 6-8, 10-11

**March 3** Quiz II (20 points)

**Week of March 9** Group problem-solving session II (50 points)

**March 12** Exam II (100 points)

*Mutation, extranuclear inheritance, quantitative genetics, phylogenetics and population genetics*

**March 24 – April 23**

Hartl and Ruvolo Chapters 14, 16-18

**April 14** Quiz III (20 points)

**Week of April 20** Group problem-solving session III (50 points)

**April 23** Exam III (100 points)

*Additional lecture deadlines, due dates and general holidays*

**January 13**

Memorial service for MU president Steven J. Koop PhD **NO CLASS**

**January 19**

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday **NO CLASS**

**March 16 – March 21**

Spring Break **NO CLASS**

**March 26**

Essay due

**May 7**

Final Exam 12:45-2:45 PM

Academic calendar for the 2015 spring semester with holidays, withdraw deadlines, etc. is available here.

<http://www.marshall.edu/calendar/academic/spring2015.asp>

**Course Schedule – Laboratory** (***schedule subject to change as needed***)

Laboratory activities are listed by the week they occur. Section 201 activities will occur on Monday of that week, section 202 will occur on Tuesday and section 303 on Wednesday. Lab activities may not take up the entire class period for the laboratory. Remaining time in lab will be reserved for review questions, sample problems, discussion and questions on the material from lecture. All problem-solving sessions to prepare for exams in lecture will take place in your laboratory session prior to the exam date.

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| **Topic and lab activity** | **Lab week of …** |
| *Introduction*Introduction to the lab section, organization into groups, and discussion of presentation topics (Monday 201 lab session will have to do this the following week due to the MLK holiday on January 19)Scientific writing and citation workshop*Transmission Genetics* | **January 19****January 26** |
| Mendelian inheritance simulation and statistical analysis | **February 2** |
| *Drosophila* genetics (**Lab report due week of March 9**)Group problem-solving session | **February 9 and February 16****February 9** |
| *DNA, Molecular Genetics and Bioinformatics* |  |
| PCR, DNA barcoding and bioinformatics(**Lab report due week of March 30**)Group problem-solving review session | **February 23, March 2 and March 9****March 9** |
| *Population Genetics and Genetic Drift* |  |
| Genetic Drift Simulation (**Lab report due week of April 13**) | **March 23** |
| *Phylogenetic analyses* |   |
| Primate family tree analysis (**Lab report optional, due week of April 27**) | **March 30** |
| Group Presentation (submit topic by week of February 9)Group problem-solving review session | **April 6, April 13** **April 20** |

**Due dates for lab reports (subject to change if needed)**

*Drosophila genetics* **Week of March 9**

*PCR and DNA barcoding* **Week of March 30**

*Genetic drift simulation* **Week of April 13**

*Phylogenetics* **Week of April 27** (*optional lab report, may be submitted to replace the lowest scoring previously submitted report*)

**Dates for lab quizzes TBA**