

Course Schedule

Unless otherwise specified, readings are taken from,

St. Clair, Caroline & Visick, Jonathan (2010). *Exploring Bioinformatics: A Project-Based Approach*. Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett.

	Date	Topic	Reading	Work Due
01	Thursday, 25 August 2011	Getting Started Preliminary surveys. Discuss <i>Wired</i> article. Course expectations. Using the MathLAN. Getting started with Python.	Ratliff 2009	
02	Tuesday, 30 August 2011	What is Bioinformatics? Discuss <i>Science</i> articles on dinosaur DNA. Studying interdisciplinary fields. Web exploration: Favism.	Chapter 1. Asara et al. 2007. Pevzner et al. 2008. Schweitzer et al. 2009.	Reading response to <i>Science</i> articles. RISC survey. Introductory survey.
03	Thursday, 1 September 2011	Programming Bioinformatics Programming exercises.		Write up of Web exploration 1
04	Tuesday, 6 September 2011	The Central Dogma (1) Introduction to the Central Dogma. Related computational problems. Guided project 2.5 - Web Exploration.	Chapter 2	
05	Thursday, 8 September 2011	Gene Alignments (1) Aligning Genes, A Biological Perspective. Guided project 2.5 - Programming Project.	Chapter 3	
06	Tuesday, 13 September 2011	Gene Alignments (2) Discussion: Altschul et al. (BLAST). The Needleman-Wunsch algorithm. Web exploration and other fun with BLAST.	Altschul et al. 1990	Response to Altschul et al.
07	Thursday, 15 September 2011	Gene Alignments (3) Experiments with Needleman-Wunsch. Start HIV analysis.		On your own project (2.6)

08	Tuesday, 20 September 2011	Protein Alignments (1) What's the difference? Why protein alignment is not gene alignment. Constructing similarity matrices.	Chapter 4	
09	Thursday, 22 September 2011	Protein Alignments (2) Discussion of HIV data and paper. Introduce Biology Lab.	Markham et al. al. 1998.	Reading Response: Markham et al.; Exploration of HIV Data
10	Tuesday, 27 September 2011	Sequence Assembly (1) Constructing Similarity Matrices. Chapter 4 programming project.	Chapter 5	
11	Thursday, 29 September 2011	Lab Day! Lab stuff (safety, using the tools, DNA digestion)	Lab instructions	
12	Tuesday, 4 October 2011	Sequence Assembly (2) Biology lab: DNA ligation; The Biology of Sequence Assembly		Shotgun Fragmentation (Optional)
13	Thursday, 6 October 2011	Gene Prediction (1) Computational Issues in Sequence Assembly ;	Chapter 6 ; Kellis et al. 2003	
14	Tuesday, 11 October 2011	Gene Prediction (2) Remaining topics from Chapter 6; Discussion of Kellis <i>et al.</i> ; Review for Midsem	Chapter 6	Reading response: Kellis et al. 2003
15	Thursday, 13 October 2011	Mid-Semester Examination		
<i>Fall Break!</i>				
16	Tuesday, 25 October 2011	Structure Prediction (1) About protein folding. PCR Reactions I & II	Chapter 7	Set up second PCR on Wednesday!
17	Thursday, 27 October 2011	Structure Prediction (2) Run gels; TA Clone (warning! may go late)		
18	Tuesday, 1 November 2011	Microarrays (1) Dealing with quantitative data. Intro to microarrays	Chapter 9; Baggerly 2010	Web Exploration 7.5

19	Thursday, 3 November 2011	Microarrays (2) Exams returned. Project planning. Programming Lab.		Chou-Fasman Programming Project
20	Tuesday, 8 November 2011	Phylogenetics (1) Intro to Phylogenetics	Chapter 8;	
21	Thursday, 10 November 2011	Phylogenetics (2) More project planning	Krings et al. 1997.	Reading response: Krings et al. 1997; Project proposals
22	Tuesday, 15 November 2011	Project Kickoff		Peer reviews of project proposals
23	Thursday, 17 November 2011	Guest Lecture Guest lecture (Jillian Goetz); Short presentations of project proposals		
24	Tuesday, 22 November 2011	Time for work on projects		Revised project proposals; Lab data analysis results section
25	Tuesday, 29 November 2011	Time for work on projects		
26	Thursday, 1 December 2011	Time for work on projects Status Reports; Guest Lecture by Paul Tymann		
27	Tuesday, 6 December 2011	Project Presentations (1)		
28	Thursday, 8 December 2011	Wrapup Project postmortem; What is bioinformatics?, revisited. Course evaluation. Review for final. Final comments.		Project Writeups; (Portfolios due at final)

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