

**PCB3063 Genetics**  
Fall 2025 Section 4336

**I. Class Meetings** PSY Hall 130. T & R 7:25 am -09:20 am

**II. Instructor:**

Xiaofei Bai Ph.D., Department of Biology; Genetics Institute

Office: CGRC Room 438

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1 pm-2 pm, preferred by appointment at [baixiaofei@ufl.edu](mailto:baixiaofei@ufl.edu).

**Graduate TAs:**

Md Monjurul Islam Rifat,

Office: Carr Hall Rm 609A

Office Hours: Wed/Thu 2 pm, or by appointment at [m.rifat@ufl.edu](mailto:m.rifat@ufl.edu)

**III. Course Description**

PCB 3063 is an introduction to genetics course covering topics from Mendelian genetics to molecular biology and genomics. The class will provide students with a solid foundation in genetics, either as a stand-alone course or as a prerequisite to other life sciences courses offered on campus. The course emphasis is on conceptual synthesis. Course performance will be measured by **11 homework assignments, three exams, a presentation project associated with rare genetic diseases (details in class), one seminar attendance/written summary (extra credit), class attendance (extra credit), as well as multiple pre-lecture homework assignments (extra credit).**

We will have many assignments and problems that will assist you in learning the material, attaining a greater understanding, and achieving higher grades. Each module has associated graded assignments intentionally designed to promote hands-on learning. My recommended strategy for success is: 1) Read the textbook Chapter; 2) attend lectures; 3) work through homework assignments.

Each student is solely responsible for reading and following the instructions, guidelines, and schedules in this syllabus. **Not reading the information in this syllabus or instructor announcements will not constitute an excuse for missing an assignment, exam, or other assessment.**

**IV. Course Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course, students will have built core knowledge of the field of genetics, including both Mendelian and molecular genetics. Students will be able to use this core knowledge to analyze scientific literature and make connections within and between other life sciences and translational medicine coursework.

**V. E-mail Communication**

All e-mail correspondence to course instructors **must originate from your UFL account and have your full name in the body of the e-mail.** E-mails not meeting these requirements may not be recognized by our e-mail filters, and thus may not be answered.

## VI. Course Resources

**A. Textbook** – *Concepts of Genetics*, 12<sup>th</sup> Edition, William S. Klug, Pearson Education, Inc. (publisher), with *MasteringGenetics* online learning system. One physical copy of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> editions each is put on Course Reserves and will be available to loan for 2 hours from the Marston Science Library.

**B. Online Resources and Electronic Textbook** - This course will participate in the UF All Access program. Log in to the following website and opt in to receive your required Pearson access code, which will be used to register from within Canvas - <https://www.bsd.ufl.edu/G1CO/IPay1f/start.aspx?> Follow the UF All Access Student Instructions. Any code obtained outside of UF All Access will not work for the course. When setting up your account, **you must use your Gatorlink (@ufl.edu) e-mail address.**

Next, register for Mastering Genetics using your access code.

1. Sign in to Canvas and enter your Canvas course.
2. Do one of the following: Select any Pearson link from any module.  
OR Select an Access Pearson link in the Course Navigation.
3. Next, select OpenMyLab and Mastering or a content link.

Never use temporary access because all work will be lost when you purchase Mastering Genetics.

From the You're Done page, select Go to My Courses.

**Note:** We recommend you **always enter Mastering Genetics through Canvas**. Also, it is recommended that you use **Google Chrome** as your browser and **turn off pop-up blockers** when doing assignments in Mastering to avoid issues.

**For help with All Access registration, email: [allaccess@bsd.ufl.edu](mailto:allaccess@bsd.ufl.edu)**

**For help with the Pearson site, contact their Technical Support.** Contact information and support hours will be posted on the Canvas webpage for the course.

[https://help.pearsoncmg.com/integration/cq/canvas/student/en/content/get\\_started.htm](https://help.pearsoncmg.com/integration/cq/canvas/student/en/content/get_started.htm)

**C. Course Website (e-Learning)** - Class material, including the syllabus, problem sets, exam results, lecture slides, and other assignments and information related to the course, will be posted on the course e-Learning site <http://elearning.ufl.edu/>. The course is found under "e-Learning in Canvas." You are responsible for **all** announcements, whether made by email or Canvas inbox and/or posted on the course website for this class. So, please be sure to check into the online course often.

**For help with e-Learning**, call the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357, or visit the e-Learning support website: <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>

## VII. Assessments and Grading.

Students are expected to check the course website daily for announcements, assignment due dates, and other course-related information.

**A. Exams** – 300 points - There will be three "unit" exams, **but no cumulative "final" exam.** Each exam will cover material from PowerPoint lectures, the assigned reading in the textbook, homework and in-class learning activities, and discussions. Exam questions include multiple-choice and numerical answers. You may use a calculator during exams – graphing calculators can be used, if the student demonstrates to the proctor that the memory has been cleared. Expect exams to require the full 2 hours allotted.

**Regrades** must be requested in writing and be taken within 7 days of the return of the exam. **No make-up exams** will be given without prior permission or documentation of illness. In case of illness, a letter from your primary care provider is required. A personal matter requires a note from the Dean of Students (P202 Peabody Hall). Any request for a makeup exam must be submitted by email prior to the exam or within a week after the exam.

## **B. Mastering Genetics Homework Assignments – 165 points total (15 points each, 11 homework assignments).**

As part of PCB 3063, you are required to complete (almost) weekly online assignments. Due dates are posted within the individual Modules on Canvas. All assignments must be completed by the stated due date and time for credit.

(a) *Dynamic Study Modules* – DSMs are overall reviews of each Chapter's material. Full points are awarded upon completion before the due date. There is no penalty for using hints or for multiple attempts before the due date.

(b) *Practice Problems/Questions*: No hints available, but 6 attempts per question are allowed. You can take the entire homework assignment up to 3 times and keep the best score. One homework assignment with the lowest grade out of eleven total will be dropped. Once assigned, online assignments are available at all times up until the deadlines. Usually, assignments are due on Sundays. Because they are assigned well ahead of time, documentation of illness or a personal matter must be provided for at least **five of the seven days** of the week of the assignment's deadline **by the Dean of Student's Office or DRC** for accommodations to be made.

It is in your best interest to plan to submit all online assignments well ahead of the posted deadlines, so that you have time to deal with technical problems should they arise. If there is a technical problem with website access or a particular assignment within CANVAS, you must contact **eLearning technical support and the instructor at least 48 hours prior to the deadline**, so appropriate steps can be taken to fix the issue and appropriate extensions can be given, if necessary. Thus, check early that you can access the assignments. **You will not be granted an extension for technical problems if you do not contact the instructor well before the deadline.** A late penalty of 25% per day applies (except HW 1, for which there is no penalty).

## **C. Mastering Genetics Pre-lecture Homework Assignments – 114 points total (6 points each, 19 homework assignments).**

As part of PCB 3063, you are required to complete (almost) weekly online pre-lecture assignments to help you preview the classes. Due dates are posted within the individual Modules on Canvas. All assignments must be completed by the stated due date and time for credit.

**D. Course Project – 50 points** –Online presentation. Each student will choose a specific assigned genetic/genome/gene editing paper. Each student will present the slides and record the presentation using either Zoom or other online tools and submit the record file

to Canvas for grading. More details will be announced in the middle of the Fall semester, and the templates of the presentations will be provided on Canvas.

**E. iClicker questions – up to 20 bonus points.** Since the class will be in the early morning, to encourage class participation, In-class iClicker surveys will be used in (almost) each lecture and will be counted as extra credits toward the final grade (20 points maximum, 1 point for participation in each class). Many of the iClicker questions will also appear on exams. **If you haven't done so already, please install the app and create an iClicker student account before the first class.**

**<https://at.ufl.edu/service-teams/classrooms/classroom-technology/iclicker-response-system/>**

**F. Biology Department seminar attendance – up to 20 bonus points.** I will invite one leading scientist, Dr. Chenshu Liu from Lehigh University, on October 21st at 3:30 pm, to present his research during the Biology Department seminar. The seminar will be either on-site at Bartram 211 or on Zoom. The Zoom link will be provided before the seminar. You will be requested to submit a post-seminar summary with at least a half-page/single-space writing (the templates will be provided on Canvas). You will receive 20 points of extra credit for the seminar.

**G. Two online lecture assignments – up to 20 bonus points.** I will assign two online videos provided by world-leading scientists introducing the important genetic concept or technology that we will lecture on during the class. We will assign simple questions based on the answers included in the videos. You will receive up to 10 points of extra credit for each video assignment.

### **E. Grading Summary\***

	Assignments	Points each	Total points
1 Pre-lecture Homework (Required)	19	6	114
2 Post-lecture Homework (Required)	11	15	165
3 Course Project (Required)	1	50	50
4 Exams (Required)	3	100	300
5 Seminar summary	1	20	Extra credit 20
6 Online videos questionnaire	2	10	Extra credit 20
7 iClicker	20	1	Extra credit 20

## How to Calculate Your Final Grade Percentile

When calculating your final grade during the semester, use the total points you have earned divided by the total possible points for the required assignments completed so far.

Example (after 10 weeks of classes):

We have assigned the following:

Exam 1: 100 points

Four homework assignments (HW1-4):  $4 \times 15 = 60$  points

Eight pre-lecture homework assignments (P-HW 1-8):  $8 \times 6 = 48$  points

Ten iClicker activities:  $10 \times 1 = 10$  points (extra credit)

To find your grade percentile:

$$\text{Grade Percentile} = \frac{\text{Total points earned on Canvas (Exam + HW1-4 + Pre-HW1-8 + iClicker)}}{\text{Total possible points for required work (Exam + HW1-4 + Pre-HW1-8)}} \times 100\%$$

Example calculation:

Student A earned full points for every assignment:

$$\frac{100 + 60 + 48 + 10}{100 + 60 + 48} \times 100\% = 105\%$$

Because the course is designed to support student success, the extra credit opportunities (up to 10%) can boost your score significantly. If you complete all the extra credit, your maximum possible grade percentile will be 109% with minor changes at the discretion of the instructor.

Please note that Mastering grades can take up to a day to transfer to Canvas, so don't panic if you don't see them immediately.

**Grading will be on a percentage scale.**

93 – 100%	A
90 – 92.9%	A-
87 - 89.9%	B+
83 – 86.9%	B
80 – 82.9%	B-
77 – 79.9%	C+
73 – 76.9%	C
70 – 72.9%	C-
67 – 69.9%	D+
63 – 66.9%	D
60 – 62.9%	D-
<60	E

A curve may be applied at the instructor's discretion. The curve can only raise your grade, not decrease it. Please see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx> for UF's policy for assigning grade points.

**F. Computing Requirements** - It is the sole responsibility of the student to maintain a functioning and compatible computing system, proper software, and a reliable internet connection. Computing/internet connectivity issues will NOT be acceptable excuses for missed deadlines, unless they are brought to the attention of the instructor **at least 48 hours prior to the deadline** and accompanied by the ticket number from technical support. See Resources for Technical Support contact information. Microsoft Office programs are required for many of the assignments; it can be accessed by current UF students through GatorCloud.

### VIII. Attendance

Attendance in class is not required, but material covered only in lecture may appear on exams. iClicker assessments will often be taken during the lecture to assess/improve comprehension. Many iClicker questions will appear on exams. **iClicker points will be counted as extra credit toward the final grade (up to 3% of total points).** Lectures are not a simple recapitulation of the textbook; they are designed to synthesize and embellish important concepts, to reinforce and provide a logical structure to the material. Students are strongly encouraged to read the assigned textbook Chapters before the lectures and attend lectures to make it easier to comprehend and remember the material.

### IX. Guide for Success

The UF College of Liberal Arts and Sciences assumes that each student will devote 3-4 hours per week per credit-hour to each course, including time in lectures and labs. Because PCB 3063 is 4 credits, each student should therefore expect to devote 12-16 hours per week to this course during a regular semester, or 16-21 hours per week during Summer C. A recommended minimum time allocation is below.

Activity	Hours per Week
Lectures	4
Online Exercises & Assignments	2
Textbook Readings	2
Review and Study	2

If you find yourself spending less than the recommended number of hours per week on average, you should recognize that you may have difficulty learning and comprehending the material in this time, and this will probably be reflected in poor performance on the various assessments. If you find yourself spending more than the recommended number of hours per week on average on these activities, discuss this with your course instructor to see if you can refine your study habits. Research shows that short but regular and consistent time commitment to an activity improves efficiency of learning. I.e., to get the most out of the class, study almost every day, and every week. Do not delay the activities

(reading, studying, homework, project assignment) until the last night before the deadline or the exam date.

## **X. Academic Honesty**

On all work submitted for credit the following pledge is either required or implied:

“On my honor I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

Note: I hope you work in study groups on assignments; explaining concepts in this group setting is expected, however, when you solve questions, you will learn the material best if you do all of the calculations on your own. It is not unusual for me to take a quiz or assignment question, replace the numbers, and place it on an exam. Be prepared, not sorry!

## **XI. Courtesy and Respect**

The instructor is committed to treating all students with courtesy, professionalism, and fairness. This includes providing equitable access to course materials and learning opportunities, listening to students' viewpoints, and fostering a classroom atmosphere where civil and constructive dialogue can take place.

Students are expected to extend the same respect and consideration to one another. We all share the responsibility of maintaining a positive, welcoming environment that supports learning for everyone.

## **XII. Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

Students who will require an accommodation for a disability must contact the Dean of Students Office of Disability Resources, in Peabody 202 (phone: 352-392-1261). Please see the University of Florida Disability Resources website for more information at: <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/accommodations/>. Note that the student should provide documentation of a requirement for accommodation **by the second week of classes**. No accommodations are available to students who lack this documentation. It is the policy of the University of Florida that the student, not the instructor, is responsible for arranging accommodations when needed. Once the notification is complete, the Dean of Students Office of Disability Resources will work with the instructor to accommodate the student.

## **XIII. Counseling Center**

Many students experience test anxiety and other stress related problems. Go to “[A Self Help Guide for Students](#)” to view CWC suggestions. In addition, a number of support systems are available through the UF Counseling and Wellness Center (3190 Radio Road, 392 1575, <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>).

## **XIV. In-Class Recording:**

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes



are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class, or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session. Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

## XV. Tentative Course Schedule

This is a tentative schedule; the dates and coverage of topics are subject to change. To allow more flexibility in student schedules, all assignments for each week are due at 11:59 PM. This is NOT an invitation to wait until the last minute to do all the assignments. Get them done early and avoid technical problems or rushing through them without learning the material.

	Week	Topic	Read	Due	subtopics
1	21-Aug	Course policies, introduction	Syllabus		
2	26-Aug	Transmission Genetics I	CH 2	HW 1, Sep 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 11:59 pm	Genetics Introduction; mitosis & meiosis; Mendelian genetics: Punnett squares & probability
	28- Aug	Transmission Genetics I	CH 3		Mendelian genetics: Punnett squares & probability
3	2-Sep	Transmission Genetics II	CH 4	HW 2, Sep 9 <sup>th</sup> , 11:59 pm	Extensions of Mendelian genetics
	4-Sep	Transmission Genetics II	CH 4/5	HW 3, Sep 16 <sup>th</sup> , 11:59 pm	Extensions of Mendelian Genetics
4	9-Sep	Transmission Genetics II	CH 5		Linkage mapping Genome sequencing
	11-Sep	Transmission Genetics II	CH 6	HW 4, Sep 18 <sup>nd</sup> , 11:59 pm	Microbial Genetics



		Transmission Genetics III			
5	16-Sep	Transmission Genetics II Transmission Genetics III Chromosomes	CH 7		Sex determination
	18-Sep	Chromosomes	CH 8		Chromosome variation, Exam I Review
6	23-Sep	<b>Exam I (CH 2-7)</b>			<b>Exam I (CH 2-7). 7:25 AM to 9:20 AM</b>
	25-Sep	Molecular Genetics I	CH 10,11	HW 5, Oct 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 11:59 pm	DNA: the genetic material; replication & recombination; chromatin structure
7	30-Sep	Molecular Genetics I	CH 11,12		DNA: the genetic material; replication & recombination; chromatin structure
	2-Oct	Molecular Genetics II	CH 13	HW 6, Oct 9 <sup>th</sup> , 11:59 pm	RNA/Transcription
8	7-Oct	Molecular Genetics II	CH 14		Translation
	9-Oct	Molecular Genetics III	CH 15	HW 7, Oct 16 <sup>th</sup> , 11:59 pm	DNA Repair
9	14-Oct	Molecular Genetics III	CH 16		Regulation of Gene expression: Prokaryotes
	16-Oct	Molecular Genetics IV	CH 17	HW 8, Oct 23 <sup>th</sup> , 11:59 pm	Regulation of gene expression: Eukaryotes
10	21-Oct	Molecular Genetics V	CH 18		Post Transcriptional Regulation
	21-Oct	<b>Biology seminar</b>	<b>3:30 PM</b>		<b>Zoom link TBD</b>
	23-Oct	Molecular Genetics VI	CH 19		Exam II Review, Epigenetics Biotechnology/Genomics
11	28-Oct	<b>Exam II (CH 8,10-18)</b>			<b>Exam II (CH 8,10-18). 7:25 AM to 9:20 AM</b>
	30-Oct	Genomics	CH 20,21	HW 9, Nov 6 <sup>th</sup> , 11:59 pm	Biotechnology/Genomics
12	4-Nov	Molecular Genetics VII	CH 21,22		Biotechnology/Genomics
	7-Nov		CH 23		Developmental Genetics
13	11-Nov	<b>Veterans Day</b>			<b>No Class</b>
	13-Nov	Molecular Genetics VIII	CH 24	HW 10, Nov 20 <sup>th</sup> ,	Cancer Genetics Quantitative Genetics

				11:59 pm	
<b>14</b>	<b>18-Nov</b>	Transmission Genetics IV	CH 25	HW 11, Dec 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 11:59 pm	CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing
	<b>20-Nov</b>	Exam Review			Exam III (CH 19-26) Review
<b>15</b>	<b>25-Nov</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>			<b>No Class</b>
	<b>27-Nov</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>			<b>No Class</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>2-Dec</b>	<b>Exam III (CH 19-25)</b>			<b>Exam III (CH 19-25) 7:25 AM to 9:20 AM</b>