

**ZOO 4926**  
**Special Topics: Genomics and Biotechnology**

**Description**

Big data and genomics are prominent in the medical and agricultural life-sciences. Students will be introduced to modern next-generation sequence based molecular biology through a combination of lectures and hands-on wet-lab exercises. This course will introduce students to the theory behind basic molecular biology techniques (i.e. nucleic acid biochemistry and isolations, cloning, PCR, DNA/RNA hybridization, traditional and NGS sequencing), basic analysis (basic UNIX and command line familiarity, annotation, sequence alignment, data file formats, variant detection, expression analysis), and supplement these with wet-labs where students will perform RNA and DNA isolations, sample QC, NGS library construction; and, dry-lab sessions where students will learn to perform basic assembly, alignment and expression detection analysis using a locally implemented instance of GALAXY.

**Instructor**

Dr. W. Brad Barbazuk, Department of Biology and the UF Genetics Institute  
CGRC room 407 2033 Mowry rd. or by appointment (273-8624)

[bbarbazuk@ufl.edu](mailto:bbarbazuk@ufl.edu)

**Course website**

UF e-learning

**Text**

Dale, Schantz and Plant. 2012 From Genes to Genomes, 3rd ed. Pearson, New York.

Additional readings will comprise a selected set of papers from peer-reviewed journals, popular science writing, vetted web sites with a science education focus, and science journalism, and will be provided on the course website as necessary. Note that peer-reviewed scientific literature is the means that practicing scientists use to communicate their findings. Reading the peer-reviewed literature can be difficult because the text can be very technical and use a large amount of novel vocabulary. However, it is important to learn how scientists communicate, and reading this literature is a skill you should acquire. Generally these reading materials will be assigned as supplements to material in the Theory lectures that will be discussed the following week. So, for example, I may assign a reading on week 2 that you should read in preparation to discussion during week 3.

**Schedule**

CLASS LECTURES: W Periods 6 & 7, Room CGRC 133; W Periods 6 & 7 CGRC 351  
LABS (see course outline for specific Lab Dates) F Periods 6-9 ICBR teaching Lab

**Credit Hours**

**Pre-requisites and Co-requisites**

None – BSC2010, PCB3063 (or equivalent) and at least one University level chemistry lab.

**Email Policy:**

All email correspondence must be from your ufl.edu account, have your full name in the body of the email, and contain your course and section number in the subject line. Emails not meeting these requirements may not be recognized by my email filters, and thus may not be answered.

**Conduct in Class**

- Participate in discussions and ask questions. Be prepared to discuss readings; most readings are assigned the week before they will be covered. Please be courteous to other students during the class, but make sure you engage with the both the other students and the instructor.
- We will discussions focused on issues such as gene patents and genomics and medicine. These discussions will ultimately focus on the intersection of public policy and science. Make sure you have completed readings before the discussions and feel comfortable with the factual claims you will use to back up your opinions. You will be expected to complete a written summary of your points of view before the discussion and then finish it by revising it in light of the discussion before turning it in.
- Tardiness is disruptive for the lecture. Frequent tardiness will not be tolerated. Five points per occurrence will be deducted from the student's overall score after the third occurrence of being late to class.
- Only approved electronic devices may be used in class. Approved electronic devices are laptop computers (when used to participate in classroom activities) and voice recording devices. Unapproved electronic devices include cell phones, video recorders, digital cameras and MP3 players.

**Software Use**

All faculty, staff and student of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

**Notice regarding Syllabus lecture and exam schedule**

Syllabus is subject to change. While it is very likely that the procedures, lecture, posted exam and presentation dates will be adhered to, these may be subject to change as the semester progresses and should be considered tentative ONLY!!

## Grading:

20% Active discussion, 50% Lab write-ups and analysis, 30% Assignments

• **No make-up assignments 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).

• Attendance in class and lab is mandatory

• Grading will be on a percent 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

## Academic Honesty:

All students registered at the University of Florida have agreed to comply with the following statement:

*“I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.”*

In addition, 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.”*

If you witness any instances of academic dishonesty in this class, please notify the instructor or contact the Student Honor Court (392-1631) or Cheating Hotline (392-6999). For additional information on Academic Honesty, please refer to the University of Florida

Academic Honesty Guidelines at:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.html>.

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:**

Students with disabilities who require accommodations should first seek assistance at the Dean of Students Office of Disability Resources, in Peabody 202 (phone: 352-392-1261). The Dean of Students Office of Disability Resources will work with the instructor to accommodate the student. Please see the University of Florida Disability Resources website for more information at: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drp/services/>.

**Counseling Center:**

Many students experience test anxiety and other stress related problems. "A Self Help Guide for Students" is available through the Counseling Center (301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575) and at their website: <http://www.counsel.ufl.edu/>

**Other Information:**

Please do not request individual special treatment at the end of the semester; we do not adjust grades for individuals for any reason. Plan to do well on all assignments from the beginning of the semester.

**Syllabus is subject to change. While it is very likely that the posted exam and poster session dates will be adhered to, these should be considered tentative ONLY!! Actual dates will be announced well in advance.**

**Course Outline (topics covered by week – subject to revision throughout the course)**

Week	Topic
1 1/4,1/6	<b>Lecture</b> – Fundamentals (Nucleic Acids, structure, chromosomes and plasmids, Review of replication/transcription and Translation)
2 1/11, 1/13	<b>Lecture</b> – Fundamentals (Nucleic Acids – properties that influence isolation, purification, quantification and detection (hybridization).
3 1/18,1/20	<b>Lecture</b> – Introduction to cloning: Vectors and their properties, Restriction Enzymes and fragment manipulation, Gel electrophoresis and fragment sizing
4 1/25,1/27	<b>Lecture</b> – DNA library construction, cDNA library construction, library screening (hybridization), PCR.  <b>LAB1 – DNA isolation and quantification</b>
5 2/1, 2/3	<b>Lecture</b> – Assaying Gene Expression Lab1 write-up due 2/3
6 2/8, 2/10	<b>Lecture</b> - DNA Sequencing – Sanger and NGS  <b>LAB2 - DNA quantification, gel electrophoresis, Southern Blot transfer</b>
7 2/15, 2/17	<b>Take home Assignment 1 – no Lecture/Lab this week</b>  Lab2 write up due 2/20
8 2/22, 2/24	<b>Lecture</b> – Genomics and Transcriptomics (legacy to NGS)  <b>LAB3 – Blot probing, PCR amplification</b>
9 3/1, 3/3	<b>Lecture</b> – Genomics and Transcriptomics (legacy to NGS) Lab3 write up due 3/3.
10 3/8, 3/10	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>
11 3/15, 3/17	<b>Lecture</b> – What is a gene, Genome annotation, Annotation files and Public genomics resources  <b>LAB4 – RNA isolation and quantification</b>
12 3/22 ,3/24	<b>Lecture</b> – Annotation techniques, BLAST, Gene finders Lab4 write up due 3/24 <b>LAB – NGS Library Construction</b>
13 3/29, 3/31	<b>Lecture</b> – NGS analysis techniques: DNA sequencing, assembly and re-sequencing. <b>Take Home Assignment II Gene finding and Annotation</b> Lab5 write up due 3/31
14 4/5, 4/7	<b>Lecture</b> – NGS analysis techniques: Variant detection
15 4/12,	<b>Lecture</b> – NGS analysis techniques: RNA sequencing and Gene expression analysis.

4/14	
16 4/19	<b>FINAL ANALYSIS DUE</b>