

Administrivia and Survey

Assigned: Thursday, 27 August 2009

Due: 1:15 p.m., Tuesday, 1 September 2009

No extensions!

Summary: In this assignment, you will gather information about the structure of the course and then respond to a few basic questions about the course and about yourself.

Purposes: To encourage you to learn about the structure of the course and the course web. To give me a bit more information about you.

Expected Time: One to two hours for parts one and two.

Collaboration: Each student should turn in his or her own responses to this assignment. However, you may certainly work with other students as you review the course materials and answer the questions. You may discuss the assignment with anyone you wish. You may obtain help from anyone you wish, but you should clearly document that help.

Submitting: Email your answers to both Professor Rebelsky and Professor Praitis.

Warning: So that this assignment is a learning experience for everyone, we may spend class time publicly critiquing your work.

Assignment

Part One: The Course

As you might have been able to tell from the first day of class, we have a wide variety of opinions about learning and teaching which are reflected in how we run the class. You can (and should) learn more about these perspectives from the course Web. In this assignment, you will review the course Web and answer some basic questions.

1. Read

- The front door for the course, available at <http://www.cs.grinnell.edu/~rebelsky/Courses/CSC295/2009F/>.
- Sam's notes on teaching and learning, available at <http://www.cs.grinnell.edu/~rebelsky/Courses/CSC295/2009F/Handouts/teaching.html>.
- Our additional notes on grading, available at <http://www.cs.grinnell.edu/~rebelsky/Courses/CSC295/2009F/Handouts/grading.html>.
- Our additional notes on course work, available at <http://www.cs.grinnell.edu/~rebelsky/Courses/CSC295/2009F/Handouts/work.html>.
- Vida's notes on response papers, available at <http://www.cs.grinnell.edu/~rebelsky/Courses/CSC295/2009F/Handouts/response-papers.html>.

- Sam's notes on academic honesty, available at <http://www.cs.grinnell.edu/~rebelsky/Courses/CSC295/2009F/Handouts/academic-honesty.html>.
- Our notes on students with disabilities, available at <http://www.cs.grinnell.edu/~rebelsky/Courses/CSC295/2009F/Handouts/disabilities.html>.
- Anything else that you think would be valuable to read (or that you think we would find it valuable for you to read).
- Anything that seems to be necessary to answer the following questions.

2. Write (well, type) answers to the following questions:

- a. What happens if you turn in homework late?
- b. How can you figure out what assignments you have due?
- c. When can you work with other students and when can you not work with other students (for this class)?
- d. How can you obtain help from us?
- e. Where can you find the readings for the course?
- f. Why do you think we gave you this assignment?
- g. What questions about the class do you have that are not answered by the Web site?

Part Two: About You

As we start each class, we like to learn a little bit about each student. Hence, this short survey. We find that knowing more about our students helps us teach a better class.

- a. What is your name?
- b. What is your major (or intended major)?
- c. Who is your academic advisor?
- d. What courses are you taking this term? Please include meeting times. We prefer course names to course abbreviations, although you should feel free to include abbreviations in addition to names.
- e. Tell us a little bit about your background with computers.
- f. Tell us a little bit about your background with biology.
- g. Why did you register for Bioinformatics?
- h. What do you hope to learn or gain from this course?
- i. What are your biggest concerns for the course?

j. Most surveys like this ask you to list your five favorite books, movies, TV shows, CDs, chia animals, buildings on campus, professors, or whatever. We'll give you a little more freedom. Pick a category of objects (it can be one that is listed, it can be one that is not), and list your five favorite objects in that category.

k. What else should we know about you?

l. Since we're asking you all of these questions, it is only fair that you get to ask us some questions. What, if anything, would you like to know about either or both of us?

Important Evaluation Criteria

We will evaluate your work on the seriousness with which you approach the assignment and your correctness in answering the questions. (And, yes, particularly clever or amusing answers are likely to earn you a modicum of extra credit.)

Submitting Your Homework

Please submit this work via two separate email messages. The first should be titled *Bioinformatics: Course Details* and should contain your answers to part one of this assignment. The second should be titled *Bioinformatics: Survey Answers* and should contain your answers to part two of the assignment.

Please send your work as the body of an email message.

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