

## 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, 27 August 2009	<b>What is Bioinformatics? (1)</b> Preliminary Survey. Discuss <i>Wired</i> article. Course Expectations. Using the MathLAN. Getting started with Python.	Ratliff 2009	
02	Tuesday, 1 September 2009	<b>What is Bioinformatics? (2)</b> Discuss <i>Science</i> articles on dinosaur DNA. What is bioinformatics?, revisited. Studying interdisciplinary fields. Web exploration.	Chapter 1. Asara et al. 2007. Pevzner et al. 2008. Schweitzer et al. 2009.	Reading response to <i>Science</i> articles
03	Thursday, 3 September 2009	<b>What is Bioinformatics? (3)</b> Web exploration, continued. Programming exercises.		
04	Tuesday, 8 September 2009	<b>The Central Dogma (1)</b> Introduction to the Central Dogma. Related computational problems. Web exploration.	Chapter 2	Writeup of Web exploration
05	Thursday, 10 September 2009	<b>The Central Dogma (2)</b> Begin guided project.		
06	Tuesday, 15 September 2009	<b>Gene Alignments (1)</b> Continue guided project 2.5; Aligning Genes, A Biological Perspective	Chapter 3	
07	Thursday, 17 September 2009	<b>Gene Alignments (2)</b> Discussion: BLAST Paper. Web exploration and other fun with BLAST.	Altschul et al. 1990: Basic local alignment search tool.	Response to Altschul et al.

08	Tuesday, 22 September 2009	<b>Gene Alignments (3)</b> Approximate pattern matching and the Needleman-Wunsch algorithm.		On your own project (2.6)
09	Thursday, 24 September 2009	<b>Gene Alignments (4)</b> Continue guided project; Start HIV analysis project		On your own project (2.6) [extended deadline]
10	Tuesday, 29 September 2009	<b>Protein Alignments (1)</b> What's the difference? Why protein alignment is not gene alignment. Constructing similarity matrices.	Chapter 4	
11	Thursday, 1 October 2009	<b>Protein Alignments (2)</b> Discussion of HIV data and paper. Chapter 4 programming project.		Exploration of HIV Data
12	Tuesday, 6 October 2009	<b>Sequence Assembly (1)</b> Sanger-style sequencing, Basics of sequence assembly.	Chapter 5; Markham et al. al. 1998.	Reading Response: Markham et al.
13	Thursday, 8 October 2009	<b>Sequence Assembly (2)</b>		
14	Tuesday, 13 October 2009	<b>Gene Prediction (1)</b>	Chapter 6	
15	Thursday, 15 October 2009	<b>Gene Prediction (2)</b>	Kellis et al. 2003	Reflection on Kelis et al. 2003
<i>Fall Break!</i>				
16	Tuesday, 27 October 2009	<b>Pause for Breath</b> Review for mid-semester examination		
17	Thursday, 29 October 2009	<b>Mid-Semester Examination</b>		
18	Tuesday, 3 November 2009	<b>Structure Prediction (1)</b> About protein folding; Web exploration	Chapter 7	
19	Thursday, 5 November 2009	<b>Structure Prediction (2)</b> Project planning; Programming project		

20	Tuesday, 10 November 2009	<b>Phylogenetics (1)</b> Exams returned	Chapter 8	Response to Neanderthal and Mitochondrial DNA paper
21	Thursday, 12 November 2009	<b>Phylogenetics (2)</b>	Paper on Neanderthals and Mitochondrial DNA	Project proposals; Chou-Fasman Programming Project
22	Tuesday, 17 November 2009	<b>Microarrays (1)</b>	Chapter 9	Peer reviews of project proposals
23	Thursday, 19 November 2009	<b>Project Kickoff</b> Short presentations of project proposals; Discussion of Tuggle article	Tuggle article	Response to Tuggle article
24	Tuesday, 24 November 2009	<b>Time for work on projects</b>		
25	Tuesday, 1 December 2009	<b>Time for work on projects</b>		
26	Thursday, 3 December 2009	<b>Time for work on projects</b>		
27	Tuesday, 8 December 2009	<b>Project Presentations (1)</b>		
28	Thursday, 10 December 2009	<b>Wrapup</b> Project postmortem; What is bioinformatics?, revisited. Course evaluation. Review for final. Final comments.		Project Writeups; Portfolios

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