

Biology 655D: SEMINAR IN GENETICS:
Genetics of Inherited Disorders
Fall 2006
Course Description

Reading Materials: Review and research publications to be identified through literature searches and reference work. A list of suggested introductory reading material for each topic is provided separately, however students are expected to do their own literature search.

Instructor: Rheem D. Medh, Ph.D.
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Class Schedule: Wednesdays: 2:00pm-4:50pm, EH2204

Office Hours: **W:** 11:00 am -1:00 pm
R: 11:00 am- 1:00 pm
or by appointment

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course is designed for Graduate students in Biology, and is intended to familiarize students with fundamental knowledge about human inherited disorders, and current research on the molecular basis, diagnosis and therapy of selected disorders. Each student will choose a relevant topic in consultation with the instructor, and prepare a review for presentation in class. Students are expected to do extensive literature reviews, and organize, present and discuss information to the class in a very informal, interactive fashion. Primary research articles will also be discussed in a journal club format. Students will obtain training in critical analyses and presentation of data presented in research articles.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

This is a seminar course where students are expected to not only attend class regularly, but also actively participate in discussions. Each student will read up literature on the topic to be presented, participate in the discussion at each meeting, and will be graded based on class participation.

METHOD OF EVALUATION: The following methods will be used to evaluate student performance:

Student Participation: 20% of the final grade will be based on participation in discussions. Each student is expected to read up in advance on the topic to be presented, regardless of whether they are presenting or not. Feel free to ask questions, add relevant information from your readings, or make comments.

Presentation on Review Topic: 30% of final grade. Each student will present a review on a topic to be selected in consultation with the instructor. The presentation should be approximately 60-90 min. Students are encouraged to ask questions during the presentation, and have an informal discussion after the presentation. You may use Power Point, Slides, Overheads, handouts etc., as needed, however it is your responsibility to have the necessary set up for your presentation.

Presentation on research article: 30% of final grade. Each student will pick a research publication on one of the topics listed. This will be in the format of a journal club, where you will discuss the goal of the experiments, the methods used etc. You will discuss each figure of the article in terms of the purpose, the soundness of data, the validity of the interpretation, and your critical evaluation of the work. Each student will be allotted 45-60 min for this presentation, including discussion.

Case Study: 20% of final grade. This is intended to be a group project. Depending on the number of students enrolled in the class and the number of cases available to discuss, groups of students will be assigned a case. Details of the project will be discussed in class. The group assigned will lead the discussion, but the entire class will participate.

Grades will be based on total points earned. No plus/minus grades will be assigned.

- A: $\geq 90\%$
- B: 89-80%
- C: 79-70%
- D: 69-60%
- F: $< 60\%$

BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT WITHDRAWAL POLICY: Unrestricted withdrawals are permitted only until the end of the third week. Thereafter, requests to drop a class will be honored only when a *verifiable* serious and compelling reason exists and when there is no viable alternative to withdrawal. *Poor performance is NOT an acceptable reason for withdrawal.* During the last three weeks of the semester withdrawals will not be approved except when a student is withdrawing from ALL classes for verifiable medical reasons.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM: All forms of cheating and plagiarism (the claiming of the work of others as your own) are expressly forbidden by University rules and will not be tolerated. Any student observed cheating will be subject to disciplinary action by the University and may receive a grade of F in the course.