

MICB 425 Microbial Ecological Genomics: From Genomes to Biomes, 2013

Instructor: Steven Hallam, Microbiology and Immunology, UBC

Seminars: MWF, 9 AM, Hugh Dempster Pavilion 101

The ultimate success of this course depends on your participation. Please feel free to speak up if I say something that motivates, mystifies or miffs you. I appreciate all forms of feedback (approach me after class, email me or drop a post on Connect). Please be considerate of other students: turn off your electronic devices and listen while others are speaking during in-class discussions.

Guest speaker presentations: External seminars relevant to unit topics will occur periodically throughout the term. Times and locations will be announced as they become available. You are encouraged to attend these seminars and discuss them in class.

Office Hours: MWF, 10 AM or by appointment; Dr. Hallam's office, room 2552 in the Life Sciences Centre

Unit Topics: This course consists of 5 modules. Each module has learning objectives, classes, and problem sets. At the end of each module there will be a writing assignment in class.

Module 1- Origins and earth systems

Module 2- Remapping the body of the world

Module 3- Agents of open source evolution

Module 4- Microbial species concepts

Module 5- Distributed metabolic networks

Grades: Note that there will be no midterm or final exam for this course.

Five "Evidence Worksheets" 5% each= 25%

The Evidence worksheets are note-taking assignments with a variety of critical thinking questions related to the scientific topics covered in class and by external presentations. Students unable to attend external presentations can still prepare their worksheets based on assigned readings.

Five problem sets 5% each= 25%

The problem sets are data driven exercises solved in groups of 3-5 students. Problem sets are developed to reinforce learning objectives and to generate questions for classroom discussion.

Five in class essays 5% each= 25%

For each module, students will write a short essay on the ideas from that module. Essays will be marked for both scientific content and essay structure.

Participation 25%

Students will be assessed on the completion of writing assignments, participation in class discussion, willingness to generate questions and explore ideas. A course portfolio consisting of

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handouts and notes, assigned reading, evidence worksheets and problem sets will be used to assist in grading assessment.

Course Website URL: (<http://elearning.ubc.ca/connect/>)

The MICB425 Connect site contains learning objectives for each unit, supporting material, required readings, and discussion board.

Course Package/Textbooks: There are no required textbooks. Assigned readings are derived from primary literature and scientific reviews. You should use a binder to organize your course portfolio.

Policies:

- All students are expected to participate by speaking in class, working in groups in a constructive and respectful manner, and by preparing for class (completing problem sets, in-class assignments, assigned readings, and/or homework).
- Problem sets will be considered part of the participation grade. It is the student's responsibility to be prepared for class with writing pieces and other assignments.
- Students who come to class unprepared (without assigned homework, for example) will be asked to leave and as a result will have marks subtracted from their participation grade.
- All writing submitted in this course should be the student's original work. Students should be well aware of university policies related to academic integrity and plagiarism: (<http://www.library.ubc.ca/home/plagiarism/>) and adhere strictly to these policies for all writing in this course.
- Academic misconduct (or cheating) of any kind will not be tolerated. The consequence for academic misconduct will include a grade of zero for the assignment and possible expulsion from the course and suspension from the University.
- This is a writing intensive course with the goal of improving your scientific writing. No laptops are allowed during in class essays. Appropriate use of grammar and correct spelling is expected. You are encouraged to bring a dictionary as a spelling resource, hard copies only. Tutoring services are available from the UBC writing Centre if you need additional help: <http://www.writingcentre.ubc.ca/tutoring/index.html>
- All assignments are due in class on the specified due date. Late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 10% per day. Late evidence worksheets will not be accepted.
- Students who have physical illness or experience emotional stresses that cause them to miss classes or assignments should make those known to the instructor right away. Absences from unit writing classes and/or evidence worksheets (completed at speaker series) will be granted at the discretion of your instructor. There are no make-up opportunities for unit writing assessments, participation marks or evidence worksheets. If you are absent or miss assignments, you should talk with your instructor who will discuss options with you. These options may include an adjustment of the weighting of your final mark (on a limited basis) to other activities in the course.
- Students with disabilities who have registered with the Disabilities Resource Center should notify the instructor.