

Syllabus for Bioinformatics I

BINF 5351/BIOL 5351/BIOL 6351

Lectures: BE300 or Blackboard: Monday/Wednesday: 3:00 pm – 4:20 pm

Labs: BE 302 Wednesday 4:30-5:50 pm

Course Description: Within the last 40 years there has been a literal explosion in the quantity and variety of information in molecular biology. To cope with this ocean of data, molecular biologists have had to develop new tools that rely heavily on the power of statistics and computing yet still incorporate an understanding of the underlying biological principles. The development and application of these tools in conjunction with assembled databases of biological information has become a field of its own, known as either Bioinformatics or as Computational Biology. In the sister courses Bioinformatics I and Bioinformatics II, we explore the principles underlying the analyses of sequence and molecular databases and work to provide students with the understanding and practical experience for intelligent and efficient application of these tools. In part one, we focus primarily on the analysis of nucleic acid sequences. In part two, we expand these studies to include gene prediction, protein function and structure studies and analysis of whole genomes. Both of these courses are core components of the interdepartmental master's degree in bioinformatics. In addition, they are open to any graduate student with relevant experience in molecular biology. This course does assume that the student has some familiarity with both basic molecular biology and with the use of computers and the internet.

Course Goals: There are two major goals for this course. First, we want students to understand both the advantages and the limitations of a Bioinformatics approach to molecular biology. This requires that students understand the underlying principles for each technique and realize where compromises have been made and why. Second, we want students to have practical experience in the application of specific tools to research problems. This experience will include working in multiple computer environments, including Unix, Python, and making use of specific web-based and computer-based software tools.

Instructors:

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Teaching Assistant:

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Course Resources:

The Required **Textbook** for this course is **Bioinformatics by David Mount (2nd edition; Cold Spring Harbor Press)**. The primary text includes a proprietary web site that will be used as a source of exercises during the course. For lab we will be using Learning Python v5. This is available on Blackboard. Supplementary reading material for advanced topics will be provided in class or online.

The course will be coordinated through a Blackboard course connection (access via **my.utep.edu**). Blackboard will provide an online syllabus, course calendar, course bulletin board, and some supplemental web sites and notes for lectures. Grades will also be presented through Blackboard

Grades:

Grading for this course will be on a points system with the lecture exams grade comprising 60% of the final grade and lab in-class and homework assignments making up the other 40%.

Lecture grade will be determined as follows:

Exams will consist of two written examinations to evaluate understanding of the underlying principles of the analyses presented in this course. Test will have both an in-class and take-home component.

Lab grade will be determined as follows:

Lab assignments and homework will be assigned on a weekly basis. In general, the computer assignments will require you to provide your pseudocode, your syntax, and output for full credit, as well as any appropriate annotations. For labs and homework that are late, a 10% per week reduction in possible points will be enforced. Labs may be resubmitted once for up to 50% of the missed points from a prior submission.

COURSE POLICIES

POLICY ON CLASS PARTICIPATION: You are expected to come to class prepared to answer questions about the assigned lab. Always bring a pen and paper. Pop quizzes may be given at any time during the lab period. The instructor will post grades electronically, but students are responsible for knowing their grades at all times.

POLICY ON CELL PHONES: Do NOT have them on or out in class, this includes texting! Cell phones can be confiscated for the class period if used in lab.

POLICY ON ALL OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES: You cannot surf the internet, watch movies, listen to music, etc. in lab. You will be asked to leave if this happens.

POLICY ON CAMPUS CARRY: Persons holding a Concealed Handgun License can lawfully carry their handgun into a UTEP classroom as long as the gun remains concealed. Open carry remains prohibited on campus. In other words, none of us should see (or be able to tell that there is) a gun at UTEP. Call the University Police at 747-5611 or dial 911 if you see any individual on campus with a handgun or other type of weapon. For more information on campus carry, see [<http://sa.utep.edu/campuscarry/>]; for more information on overall campus safety, see [<http://admin.utep.edu/emergency>].

POLICY ON MAKE-UP QUIZZES AND EXAMINATIONS: NO make-up quizzes or exams will be given for reasons other than illness (doctor's note required) or when a student is on official University business (documentation required). Make-ups must be scheduled within a week of when the quiz or test was given.

POLICY ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person's as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

While you will be working in lab teams, the work you submit for assessment must be evaluated on its own merit. Therefore, team members' reports and work should reflect the individual's thoughts. Do NOT turn in 3 near-duplicate reports with different names or everyone involved will be sent to the Dean of Students for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions. Yes, we have had to deal with this problem in the past and we are not lenient. You can calculate the consequences. All university guidelines will be strictly followed. Please read these guidelines carefully. The guidelines can be found on line at:

<http://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?PageContentID=2084&tabid=30292>

You must submit work that you yourself have completed. Work you submit that was not directly written by you is considered cheating and will result in a "0" for the assignment. Persistent submission of work performed by someone/something (e.g., ChatGPT) else will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct for evaluation.

POLICY ON DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR: Any student who disrupts the class will be asked to leave and will be referred to the Dean of Students.

DISABILITY STATEMENT: If a student has or suspects he/she has a disability and needs an accommodation, he/she should contact the Center for Accommodation and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148 or at cass@utep.edu or go to Room 106 Union East Building. The student is responsible for presenting to the instructor any CASS accommodation letters and instructions.

MILITARY STATEMENT: If you are a military student with the potential of being called into military service and/or training during the semester you are encouraged to contact the instructor regarding these matters. You must let us know during the first week of the summer.

SCHEDULE - Fall 2024

Week of	Topic	Required Readings	Instructor(s)
Aug 26	Introduction to Bioinformatics/ Molecular Cell and Molecular Evolution	Chap 1, papers Chap 2, papers	Roy/ Walsh
Sept 2	No class (Labor Day)/Intro Proteomics and CMB	Chap 3	Roy
Sept 9	Python Programming / Pairwise Alignment	Handout	Roy
Sept 16	Pairwise Alignment	Chap 4, papers	Roy
Sept 23	Multiple Sequence Alignment	Chapter 5	Roy
Oct 30	Multiple Sequence Alignment	Chapter 5	Roy
Oct 7	FASTA/BLAST Searching	Chapter 6	Roy
Oct 14	Databases/ EXAM , Lecture and Lab	Chapter 6	Roy
Oct 21	Phylogenetics 1	Chapter 7	Walsh
Oct 28	Distances based methods	Chapter 7	Walsh
Nov 1	Drop Deadline		
Nov 4	Maximum Likelihood methods	Chapter 7	Walsh
Nov 11	Bayesian methods	Chapter 7	Walsh
Nov 18	Next Gen Sequencing Part 1	Papers	Mohl
Nov 25	Next Gen Sequencing Part 2	Papers	Mohl
Dec 2	Supertrees	Papers	Walsh
Dec 9	FINAL EXAM – Comprehensive 1:00-4:00 PM		

