Genomic Data Analysis
(BioSci 469) – Spring 2020

Online class (times and exact format to be determined)

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Course Description: This course is designed for students interested in learning current techniques for the analysis of large-scale genomic data sets. High-throughput sequencing has become widespread in biology and medicine over the past decade due to both rapid technological advances and decreases in overall cost. The class will discuss study design, choice of methods, including practical issues of sequencing facilities, cost and computing resources, and then proceed to hands-on data analyses used in whole genome (re)sequencing, transcriptome analysis, and reduced-representation sequencing (e.g., RAD-seq, GBS). The schedule below gives some introductory topics. Additional topics will be covered depending on the interests of students and time available.

This course is designed to build competence in the computing and statistical methods for analyzing high-throughput genomic data. The only background assumed is a basic knowledge of statistics and genetics, familiarity with your computer and interest in learning current genomic methods. Knowledge of Linux operating systems is desirable, but not necessary. All that is required is a willingness to work hard (ie, not quit after the first [or second] error message).

Course Objectives: The primary objectives of this course are:
• to learn how genomic data are being used in biology, particularly evolutionary biology.
• to become familiar with the software and databases available for bioinformatics
• to develop the ability to formulate and investigate genomic research questions, and to effectively communicate your questions, methods, and results.

Prerequisites: Genetics (BioSci 325 or equivalent) and Biostatistics (465 or equivalent) or consent of instructor.

Computers: In the past we used a computer lab on campus, but with the switch to online, you will need to have access to a computer that can connect to the University servers (option 1 [this depends on UWM IT availability]) or your own computer on which you can install software (option 2). Much of the software we use is also available in a (relatively) easy to install version through the BioStars Handbook, which is also the source of some exercises. So if you want to use your own computer, I would strongly recommend purchasing the license (see below) and following the directions under “2. Getting Started. How to set up your computer.”

Credits and Evaluation: This is a 2-credit course. Grades are based on assignments completed each week during the online lectures (this may be modified depending on the availability of computer resources). **There is NO Final Exam!**

Graduate students will also receive part of their grade based on a research project to be agreed upon with the instructor. Final assessment is based on the cumulative grades, as follows:

**Undergraduates:** 10 in-class assignments 100% (10 pts each).

**Graduate students:** 10 in-class assignments 90% (~9 pts each), research project 10%. Graduate students will write a 2-3 page report on a topic of interest (chosen after consulting the instructor). This could be their own research or a review of papers they read.

Attendance and Assignment requirements: Assignments will be completed during lecture time (option 1) or the week of a lecture (option 2). Option 1 or 2 will be decided before the first day of classes on January 25, 2021 based on availability of computer resources.

Time investment for this course: Students should plan to spend an average of 4 hours outside of class per week reading in preparation for in-class assignments. This amount of time is based on the campus credit hour policy (Faculty Document # 2838); ie, two hours out-of-class work for each credit hour per week of class.

Letter grades will be assigned based on the final total points listed below.

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Need for Special Accommodation: Students who require note-taking or test-taking accommodations in order to meet any of the requirements of this course, please contact me as soon as possible to make suitable arrangements.

Schedule of Topics:
Week # and topic (order subject to change)

1. Introduction. What is your question? DNA or RNA? What technique should I use? Methods to analyze genomes, transcriptomes, meta-genomes & SNPs. What sequencers, data and software are available?


5. SNP calling / genotyping and viewing. Exercise #4. - Using IGV and the UCSC Genome Browser to view alignments and SNPs.

6. Searching databases using BLAST. Exercise #5

8. Genome wide association studies (GWAS). Exercise #6. - using PLINK.


11. Gene ontology. Exercise #9.- using EdgeR (Chen et al. tutorial)

12. Network analysis with KEGG, DAVID, Cytoscape etc.


References for corresponding weeks
Some of the class material is based on: “The Biostar Handbook: A Beginner’s Guide to Bioinformatics” (2017) by Istvan Albert (available online at: https://read.biostarhandbook.com/)


2. Unix primer for Biologists: http://korflab.ucdavis.edu/unix_and_Perl/


Chapters 19-21 in the Biostars handbook.


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**University Guidelines of Interest**


1. **Students with disabilities.** Notice to these students should appear prominently in the syllabus so that special accommodations are provided in a timely manner. http://www4.uwm.edu/arc

2. **Religious observances.** Accommodations for absences due to religious observance should be noted. http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S1.5.htm

3. **Students called to active military duty.** Accommodations for absences due to call-up of reserves to active military duty should be noted. Students: http://www4.uwm.edu/academics/military.cfm

4. **Incompletes.** A notation of "incomplete" may be given in lieu of a final grade to a student who has carried a subject successfully until the end of a semester but who, because of illness or other unusual and substantiated cause beyond the student's control, has been unable to take or complete the final examination or to complete some limited amount of
term work. https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_31_INCOMPLETE_GRADES.pdf

5. Discriminatory conduct (such as sexual harassment). Discriminatory conduct will not be tolerated by the University. It poisons the work and learning environment of the University and threatens the careers, educational experience, and well-being of students, faculty, and staff. https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_47_Discrimina_duct_Policy.pdf

6. Academic misconduct. Cheating on exams or plagiarism are violations of the academic honor code and carry severe sanctions, including failing a course or even suspension or dismissal from the University. http://uwm.edu/academicaffairs/facultystaff/policies/academic-misconduct/

7. Complaint procedures. Students may direct complaints to the head of the academic unit or department in which the complaint occurs. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the head of the department or academic unit in which the complaint occurred or to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy. https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_47_Discrimina_duct_Policy.pdf

8. Grade appeal procedures. A student may appeal a grade on the grounds that it is based on a capricious or arbitrary decision of the course instructor. Such an appeal shall follow the established procedures adopted by the department, college, or school in which the course resides or in the case of graduate students, the Graduate School. These procedures are available in writing from the respective department chairperson or the Academic Dean of the College/School. http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S28.htm

9. Other The final exam requirement, the final exam date requirement, etc. http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S22.htm