

Biology 192, Phage Bioinformatics, Spring 2009

General Course Information

This handout contains important information about this course; please read it carefully.

The Bio 192 websites: Biology Dept web site and the SEA wiki (www.hhmi.org/seawiki)

Course meeting times: Tuesday 1-4 and Thursday 1-3, in Eads 013.

I. Instructor information

Sarah CR Elgin	McDonnell 131	935-5348	selgin@biology.wustl.edu
Douglas Berg			berg@wustl.edu
Kathy Hafer	Life Science 102	935-4424	hafer@wustl.edu
Chris Shaffer	McDonnell 112	935-5078	shaffer@biology.wustl.edu

Course TA's

Anthony Tubbs	Anthony.tubbs@wustl.edu
Matt Dothager	mddothag@wustl.edu
Ryan Lee	rslee@artsci.wustl.edu

Dr. Elgin and Dr. Shaffer will have office hours by appointment. Most weeks there will be time for discussion and questions during the regularly scheduled and open hour lab time, but questions outside of class are welcome.

II. Required Materials:

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute Science Education Alliance (HHMI SEA) will provide you with the additional pages needed for your lab manual. You need to supply:

1. A notebook (spiral or composition type) to take notes in class. This should be a notebook you use only for Bio 191/192, and should not be loose leaf paper. A spiral notebook with 3-hole punch can be kept in your lab manual, which may be convenient.
2. A thumb drive or other appropriate device (1 Gb or more) to store your work. Appropriate computers will be available in Eads 013. If you prefer, we can load the needed software on your computer. Consult with Dr. Shaffer for assistance in this regard.

III. Course Grading

The most important part of doing well in this course is attending all scheduled and any additional necessary class meetings, and having a good attitude while performing your analysis and participating in course discussions. This phase of our phage analysis is computer-based. Some of you will have more computer experience than others; if you can help your lab partners with computer issues, please do so! As before, this analytical work requires that you to be attentive to detail, careful in the execution of your work, thoughtful in discussion - and reasonably cheerful while doing the repetitive work necessary for success! Our goal is publication-ready analysis of our phage genomes. Your grade will be determined as follows:

25% course participation and attitude

14% quality of lab notebook (a word document on your computer, submitted to the instructor on request)

10% written report on annotation (written individually, due March 24)

15% written report on the project as a whole (written individually, due April 28)

12% final presentation (either a poster at the WU Symposium or PPT to class, done as group of three, April 28)

12% six reading responses

12% two quizzes

Attendance is expected. If you are ill, please send an email to Drs. Hafer and Elgin and let them know your circumstances prior to the class meeting. Be sure to communicate with us if a problem arises that prevents you from attending class. This should happen only in a genuine emergency - plan ahead!

IV. Cell Phone Usage

Cell phone usage in class/lab is distracting to instructors and fellow students. While in class/lab you should keep your phone stowed in your backpack, and not use it at all (not as a phone, timer, camera or calculator).

V. Academic Integrity

By its nature, science is a collaborative endeavor. You will be assigned to a group of six lab partners, and you and your partners, other class members and instructors will need and want to discuss experimental protocols and results. You should assume however, that any assignments in this course are meant to be your independent work, unless the instructor explicitly tells you otherwise. Lab groups will give the final presentation as a team, and all members are expected to participate equally. Please make sure you are familiar with the Washington University Undergraduate Student Academic Integrity Policy.