Course: BIOL 340: Genetics & Evolutionary Biology, Spring 2013
Lecture: MWF 2:00-2:50pm in 378 Waggoner Hall
Lab: TU 9-12 (sec 1) & 1-4 (sec 2); TH 9-12 (sec 2) in 237 Waggoner Hall
Credit: This is a 4 semester-hour, WID course that is required for a B.S. in Biology (you must earn a "D" for credit). WID courses provide instruction in the processes & formats for writing with content & style necessary to be an effective professional in a particular field.

Prerequisites: C or better in BOT, MICR, & ZOOL200 (Intro sequence): BIO330 (Cell Biology): & ENGII (College Writing II)

Instructor: Dr. Shawn Meagher (Ph.D.)
Office: 230 Waggoner Hall
Phone: 298-2409

Materials


Lab Manual: exercises, report guidelines

Lab notebook: 80 sheets, bound—1 notebook per lab group of fly-breeding students

Web page: https://westernonline.wiu.edu/Login?Username=Ecom username, Password=?

Objective: Genetics is the study of inheritance. The inheritance of traits, whether human birth defects or hog muscle mass, has important consequences for human health and well-being. In this course, students will become familiar with a variety of topics in this diverse field from 3 general areas: (1) patterns in the transmission of traits; (2) the study and manipulation of hereditary molecules (DNA); and (3) changes in the genetic makeup of individuals (that is, mutation) and populations (evolution). Students will perform data collection, and learn when, and how, to apply basic statistical tests ($X^2$ & $t$-tests).

Evaluation: Grades will be based on lecture exams, lab reports, and participation as follows:

- Lecture Exam 1 100
- Lecture Exam 2 (cumulative) 100
- Lecture Exam 3 (cumulative) 100
- Lecture Final Exam (cumulative) 150
- Lab write-ups 100 (110 points available; SEE Lecture Schedule for details)
- Lab participation 10 (no unexcused absences, FULL participation in fly experiments)
- Total 560

Lecture exams will be (1) short answer/essay and (2) problems—make sure you do chapter-end problems as we go along!

Lab write-ups will be graded on data analysis & writing quality (especially organization and clarity).

Grades: 

$\geq 504.0 = A$, $\geq 503.5 = A-$; $\geq 503 = B+$, $\geq 448.0 = B$, $\geq 447.5 = B-$; $\geq 447.0 = C+$, $\geq 392.0 = C$, $\geq 391.5 = C-$; $\geq 391.0 = D+$, $\geq 336.0 = D$, $\geq 335.5 = D-$; $\leq 335.5 = F$

***LAB ATTENDANCE is mandatory! 2 absences of ANY kind will result in “F” in course!***

Make-ups: NO LATE WORK, and NO MAKE-UP EXAMS, except for:

- (1) death in family (I’ll need documentation); or
- (2) rare extenuating circumstances (I’ll decide), and ONLY if I have 2 weeks advance warning (you must plan ahead).

Re-grades: I will ONLY consider written requests for exam re-grades within 3 days after tests have been returned (EXAMPLE REQUEST: “I believe the answer to Question X is …because…” [this last part is critical!!]). I will consider material in the text to be correct UNLESS I specifically tell you otherwise in lecture or lab.

Academic dishonesty/Plagiarism: Rules concerning student conduct will be strictly enforced. No appearance of dishonesty (such as plagiarism) will be tolerated, and consequences will be at my discretion.

Details (forms, definitions, & time-lines) that you are responsible for are on WIU's web sites:

Students Rights and Responsibilities: http://www.wiu.edu/provost/students/

Academic Integrity Policy: http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php

Other administrative sites: You should also be familiar with the forms, definitions, & time-lines at these web sites:

Final Exam Policy: http://www.wiu.edu/policies/finexam.php

Grade Appeal Policy: http://www.wiu.edu/policies/gradeapp.php

Special needs: Students with disabilities who require special arrangements for exams or emergency situations should contact me with documentation (I cannot ask you!) immediately. Please contact Disability Resource Center (298-2512) to learn all of your options.