

Course Syllabus

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Chaminade
University
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BI308 Molecular Biology II Genomics and Epigenetics

Department of Biology, School of Natural Sciences & Mathematics

Spring Semester 2025

Credits: 3

Meeting times & location:

Section 1: TR 11:30 AM – 12:50 PM

Location: Henry Hall, room 223

Professor: Michael Dohm PhD

Office: WSC 108

Office phone: (808) 739-8543

Office Hours: Tues 9 -- 11:30am; Wed & Fri 9 - 10am, or by appointment (via CANVAS Messaging best option)

E-mail: mdohm [at] chaminade.edu (current students, please use CANVAS messaging)

A pdf version of the syllabus is available from the [Syllabus Archive \(https://syllabus.chaminade.edu/\)](https://syllabus.chaminade.edu/)

Course description:

Genomics & Epigenetics is a one semester introduction to the study of genomes (the entirety of an organism's heredity information) and epigenetics, the heritable changes in gene expression as a result of changes other than DNA sequence alterations in biological organisms. Since the late 1990s, the discipline of genomics has witnessed a revolution in methods and discovery. The impact of this revolution can be seen in the food we purchase, the way our diseases are diagnosed, and perhaps even how we view ourselves.

Through lecture and discussion, we will explore these topics and reflect upon how the technology and discovery in genomics impacts the environment and human society. We will discuss genome structure and how to locate elements like a specific gene to a particular region of the genome, incorporating use of new technologies like genome wide mutant screens and RNA interference, and non-Mendelian inheritance as a result of epigenetic changes to DNA. Students will be introduced and gain experience with software tools to interrogate genomic data.

Catalog: BI 308 Molecular Biology II Genomics and Epigenomics (3)

Components and architecture of genomes. Linkage, physical mapping, and DNA sequencing. Comparing genomes of different species. Role of gene expression and gene networks in differentiation and morphogenesis. Role of DNA methylation and chromatin remodeling in regulation of genes. Role of regulatory RNAs in gene expression. Prerequisites: BI-307.

Required textbook

Genomes 5, 2023, by T. A. Brown (ISBN: 9780367674076); There will be additional, required readings provided by the instructor throughout the course.

Recommended textbooks:

A new edition of our textbook, *Genomes 5*, is our required book for the course. Although we used *Genomes 4* as recently as Spring 2024; however, you are encouraged to purchase the newer edition -- the two are substantially different.

Introduction to Genomics, 2nd ed., 2012, by Arthur Lesk (ISBN: 978-0199564354); *Concepts of Genetics, 11th edition, by Klug et al.* (ISBN: 978-0-321-94891-5); *Genome: The autobiography of a species in 23 chapters*, by Matt Ridley (ISBN: 978-0060894085); *Life's greatest secret: The race to crack the genetic code*, by Matthew Cobb (ISBN: 978-0465062676).

Access to course website:

BI308 Genetics & Epigenetics is a web-enhanced course, managed by CANVAS, the course management system used by Chaminade University.

You may access the CANVAS site directly at <https://chaminade.instructure.com/courses/37678> (<https://chaminade.instructure.com/courses/37678>). Select BI308 Genomics & Epigenetics Lecture from the welcome screen and logon to the course. Use your CUH ID and password. Access to CANVAS is maintained by the IT department -- send access questions to helpdesk@chaminade.edu (<mailto:helpdesk@chaminade.edu>). Student's are required to sign-on and routinely access course resources at the CANVAS site.

All course content and assignments are maintained by Dr Dohm -- course content is not affiliated nor supported by Chaminade Information technology. All lecture slides, course handouts, including the syllabus, will be made available through our CANVAS course website. Quizzes typically will also be

handled via the CANVAS website although other arrangements for taking quizzes are available to the student upon request.

Connect to Chaminade's WI-FI: <https://metaaccess.myweblogon.com:8443/>
(<https://metaaccess.myweblogon.com:8443/>)

Semester schedule

For Lecture schedule, go to [BI308 Lecture Schedule](https://chaminade.instructure.com/courses/37678/pages/bi308-lecture-schedule)
(<https://chaminade.instructure.com/courses/37678/pages/bi308-lecture-schedule>)

Exam01	30 Jan 2025
Exam02	27 Feb 2025
Exam03	1 Apr 2025
Final exam	11am - 1pm 30 Apr 2025

Biology Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)

Upon completion of the B.S. degree program in Biology* the student will demonstrate the following:

1. Apply the scientific method in the design and testing of hypotheses
2. Transform and display, statistically evaluate, validate, and interpret scientific data and communicate the results of such analyses effectively both orally and in writing
3. Acquire, summarize, and synthesize information from published scientific literature, databases and bioinformatics software to extract and interpret biological data
4. Recognize the chemical and physical principles that underlie all life forms, and the biological organization at the molecular, cellular, tissue, organ, organism, and system levels that emerge from these principles
5. Define the components and processes of genetic and epigenetic information transmission, and their determinant effects on the adaptive and evolutionary processes that they drive
6. Evaluate the etiology of major human disease burden in terms of, pathophysiological mechanisms, epidemiology within populations and possible therapeutic approaches
7. Integrate an awareness of bioethical issues to positively influence the application of science to service, justice and peace in the solution of societal problems

* See [Chaminade University Undergraduate Catalog](https://catalog.chaminade.edu/course/biology) 
(<https://catalog.chaminade.edu/course/biology>)

Course assessment

Your grade will be the result of points earned from worksheets and exams.

Quizzes and Worksheets, hereafter simply referred to as Quizzes, consist of testing of concepts (true false, multiple choice, short answer) and from case studies with instructions on a particular genomics or bioinformatics problem. Work may include: use of online databases and bioinformatics tools and will be supported by work in laboratory exercises. These assignments are managed by CANVAS -- although you will be allowed up to three attempts, the highest attempt is the graded attempt. Note that each quiz and or worksheet counts as 2.5% weight towards final grade; therefore, these exercises are indented to give student assess learning. The lowest two quiz scores will be dropped.

Four exams, each based on 8-9 lectures from up to five chapters from the lectures, quizzes, worksheets and required textbook. Exams will include about 20 questions (approximately 70% multiple choice, 20% short answer format; 10% "essay"). Each exam is cumulative – that is, Exam 2 may include concepts and terms discussed prior to Exam 1, and so forth, leading up the fourth exam, which is cumulative over the entire semester.

Each exam may include opportunities for bonus points (10% per exam). Bonus is earned for correctly defining terms selected by the instructor. Additional bonus points may be earned from answering questions I post on the Ask Dr Dohm Forum.

Attendance: Employers emphasize showing up for work, on time; reliability is a key characteristic of successful employment. Therefore, and in keeping with your Biology program, attendance is expected. For REMOTE students, attendance is recorded based on CANVAS activity -- the minimum expectation for REMOTE attendance is 3 hours logged on to BI308 CANVAS and a minimum of two page views. In-person attendance will be taken at random during the semester (i.e., the instructor won't take daily roll call). If you miss more than one lecture for any unexcused absence this will be included as a note in my grade book. Continued absence puts the student at risk of administrative withdrawal from the course (see Student Handbook). If you know you will miss class, please contact Dr Dohm via CANVAS messaging in advance.

Course Credit Hour Expectations

BI-308 is a three-credit hour course and therefore requires a minimum of 135 hours of student engagement (see CUH Credit Hour Policy). One university semester credit hour typically includes one hour of in-class contact time with the professor plus two hours of preparation time by the student. Thus, over the course of the semester, students enrolled in BI-308 are expected to spend about 40 hours in class, 20 hours on quizzes, 35 hours on homework, and up to 40 hours preparing for the four exams (3 midterm plus a 2-hour final exam). These times are approximate -- individual needs may vary. Time spent outside of class by students may be better expressed by tasks to do. For example, students can re-write and update lecture notes, perform focused reading from the textbook and other resources, coding and problem solving, developing concept maps, and creating and taking practice exams.

Final grade:

A total of 500 points may be earned throughout the semester; each item has the following value.

<i>Item</i>	<i>How many?</i>	<i>How often?</i>	<i>How many points?</i>	<i>Total points towards final grade</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Quizzes	12	every 1-2 weeks	5 lowest 2 quiz scores dropped	50	10%
Attendance & participation	15	every day		50	10%
Exams	4	every 4 weeks	100	400	80%

Your letter grade will be based on the following point distribution out of 500 points possible.

<i>Points earned</i>	<i>Percent of total</i>	<i>Letter grade</i>
450-500	90-100%	A
400-449	80-89%	B
350-399	70-79%	C
300-349	60-69%	D
299 or fewer	< 60%	F

Official grade records

Canvas provides a way for you to monitor your graded assignments. This is convenient, but students should be aware that the final word about grades depends on the Official Grade Book for the course. Thus, although the Canvas record will show your points for an assignment, be advised that your assigned grade is finalized by the official grade book, which is maintained by Dr Dohm. You may always inquire about your current standing in the course by sending a message to Dr Dohm, within Canvas.

Technical Assistance for Canvas Users

Search for help on specific topics or get tips in Canvas Students

- Live chat with Canvas Support for students
- Canvas Support Hotline for students: +1-833-209-6111
- Watch this video to get you started
- Online tutorials: click on “Students” role to access tutorials

- Contact the Chaminade IT Helpdesk for technical issues: helpdesk [at] chaminade.edu or call (808) 735-4855

Tutoring and Writing Services

Chaminade is proud to offer free, one-on-one tutoring and writing assistance to all students. Tutoring and writing help is available on campus at Kōkua 'Ike: Center for Student Learning in a variety of subjects (including, but are not limited to biology, chemistry, math, nursing, English, etc.) from trained Peer and Professional Tutors. Please check Kōkua 'Ike's website (chaminade.edu/student-success/kokua-ike/) for the latest times, list of drop-in hours, and information on scheduling an appointment. Free online tutoring is also available via Smarthinking. Smarthinking can be accessed 24/7 from your Canvas account. Simply click Account – Notifications – Smarthinking. For more information, please contact Kōkua 'Ike at tutoring@chaminade.edu or 808-739-8305.

Course learning outcomes (CLO)

This course will introduce students to the foundational concepts of molecular genetics, genomics, and bioinformatics. Students will enhance abilities to discuss potential benefits and risks of genetic technology to the environment and or to human health and society.

Student learning outcomes and linkages to Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)*:

Students will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of

CLO	PLO1	PLO2	PLO3	PLO4	PLO5	PLO6	PLO7
1 Organization of genomes			X	X	X		
2 How sequencing technologies, software, and prior knowledge is incorporated into a genome assembly	X	X	X				
3 How to locate a gene (or other element) by molecular genetic and bioinformatic approaches	X	X	X				
4 Local and genomic control of gene expression			X	X	X		
5 The role of sequence and imprinting on allele-specific patterns of inheritance			X	X	X		

Alignment of Natural Sciences Courses with Marianist and Hawaiian values of the University.

The Natural Sciences Division provides an integral, quality education: sophisticated integrative course content taught by experienced, dedicated, and well-educated instructors.

- We educate in family spirit – every classroom is an Ohana and you can expect to be respected yet challenged in an environment that is supportive, inclusively by instructors who take the time to personally get to know and care for you.
- We educate for service, justice and peace, since many of the most pressing global issues (climate change, health inequity, poverty, justice) are those which science and technology investigate, establish ethical parameters for, and offer solutions to.
- We educate for adaptation and change. In science and technology, the only constant is change. Data, techniques, technologies, questions, interpretations, and ethical landscapes are constantly evolving, and we teach students to thrive on this dynamic uncertainty.

The study of science and technology can be formative, exploring human creativity and potential in the development of technologies and scientific solutions, the opportunity to engage in the stewardship of the natural world, and the opportunity to promote social justice. We provide opportunities to engage with the problems that face Hawai'i and the Pacific region through the Natural Sciences curriculum, in particular, those centered around severe challenges in health, poverty, environmental resilience, and erosion of traditional culture. The Marianist Educational Values relate to Native Hawaiian ideas of mana, na'auao, ohana, aloha and aina. We intend for our Natural Sciences programs to be culturally-sustaining, rooted in our Hawaiian place, and centered on core values of Maiau, be neat, prepared, careful in all we do; Makawalu, demonstrate foresight and planning; `Ai, sustain mind and body; Pa`a Na`au, learn deeply.

Alignment of BI308/L with Marianist and Hawaiian values of the University

BI308/L Molecular Biology II Genomics and Epigenetics lecture and lab provide an integral quality education; they are the extension of BI307/L, the first genetics courses, and provide students a foundation in evolutionary biology and genetics. These topics are essential to understanding today's biological and medical research, and successful completion of the courses will support continuing success in several upper division science courses, including but not limited to BI311, BI320/L, BI321/L, BI411L and BI471/L. As each new topic is introduced throughout the semester, a point is made to link the current subject matter with those future biology courses. Additionally, it is highlighted how the subject matter may be integrated with other sciences like chemistry and physics so that students understand that this course, as well as biology in general, is not a standalone course. To be successful and utterly understand biology one needs to understand how it relates to the bigger scientific community.

This course also focuses on educating in the family spirit. This is done by emphasizing that science is not done in a vacuum. Throughout the semester there are several small group projects/presentations both within the lecture and the lab. These are designed to not only assist student in learning the subject matter but to encourage them to build relationships within the peer groups. In order to foster collaborative learning homework assignments are given such that students are instructed to answer in

their own words; however students are strongly encouraged to work with their peers to find and discuss the answers to these questions.

Course and University Policy, Reminders, and Notices:

1. **Class begins each time exactly at the time scheduled (check your section number) – please be on time.** Chronic tardiness will be viewed as absence from class. If you miss or are tardy for class, please note that we will proceed without you and you will miss material; I cannot re-teach the class -- it is your responsibility to obtain missed lecture topics from your classmates who were in attendance.
2. **You are expected to attend class and to come prepared:** Read assigned and suggested readings before the material is to be presented in class; Do ask questions if you are unsure of material: I highly recommend that you ask in class or via the course forum.
3. **Do more than the minimum required!** I will suggest problems or questions from each chapter in your text or from the publisher's website for you to consider; these will not be graded, nor are they required. However, the more you do, the more practice and exposure you get to the material, the better you will do on my exams. BI308 exams are based on the same concepts and problems that the text questions address. I do not post answers to these suggested problems; however, I encourage you to discuss them with me in class or via the course forum.
4. **If a student cannot attend a class in which an exam has been scheduled, the student must notify the instructor in person no later than the class prior to the scheduled exam.** Notification does not include phone calls or by email. Student athletes need to provide the instructor with a schedule of all travel during the semester, in addition to providing a letter from the Athletics Department prior to travel. In the event of an emergency or an illness, a Doctor's note will be expected and accommodations will be made on a case-by-case basis. Lacking an authorized excuse, you may still be allowed to take the exam at a later time, but you will not be able to earn full credit for the assignment, in fairness to those students who took the exam on time. Same day, but at later time: maximum points possible 95% one day late: maximum points possible 85% two to three days late: maximum points possible 70% More than three days, you will not be permitted to take the exam and a score of "0" will be assigned.
5. **Return of graded material will generally be within 5-7 class days after you take the graded assignment.**
6. **Use of music devices and cell phones is prohibited during all Natural Science and Mathematics classes at Chaminade, unless specifically permitted by your instructor** (see policy item 7 below). Use of cellphones and music devices in laboratories is a safety issue. In addition, use of cellphones and music devices in any class is discourteous and may lead to suspicion of academic misconduct. Students who cannot comply with this rule will be asked to leave class and may be subject to laboratory safety violation fines. Please refer any questions to the Dean of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.
7. **I encourage you to bring and use your laptops and tablets in class.** However, use of these devices is conditional -- nonacademic activity during class hours is disruptive to the class and

everyone around. Mute the sound and avoid "low-battery" emergencies -- electrical outlets are generally not available for student use during class hours.

8. **You may not record by camera or video or audio recording device any lecture or other class activity without prior permission from the instructor.**
9. Chaminade University recognizes the inherent dignity of all individuals and promotes respect for all people. Sexual misconduct will NOT be tolerated at Chaminade. If you have been the victim of sexual misconduct, we encourage you to report this matter promptly. As a faculty member, I am interested in promoting a safe and healthy environment, and should I learn of any sexual misconduct, I must report the matter to the Title IX Coordinator. **Should you want to report to a confidential source you may contact the following:**
 - Counseling Center (phone 808-735-4845).
 - Any priest serving as a sacramental confessor or any ordained religious leader serving in the sacred confidence role (Fr. George Cerniglia, Rector; phone 808-739-8399 or Campus Ministry; 808-735-4774).
10. **Chaminade University abides by all aspects of the [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act](http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html) (FERPA).** FERPA is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. Details of Chaminade's implementation of FERPA are provided in your **[Chaminade University Student Handbook and Academic Planner](https://chaminade.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/NEW-STUDENT-HANDBOOK-19-20-Final-8.20.19.pdf)**.
11. Chaminade University is committed to making reasonable accommodations to assist individuals with disabilities in reaching their academic potential (**[Americans with Disabilities Act](http://www.ada.gov/2010_regs.htm)**). **If you have a disability which may impact your performance, attendance, or grades in this course and require accommodations, you must first must obtain written documentation of the need for accommodations from the Chaminade University Counseling Center** (phone 808-735-4845) as soon as possible in order for the instructor to plan accordingly. Failure to provide written documentation will prevent your instructor from making the necessary accommodations. Please refer any questions to the Dean of Students and review the procedures at **<https://chaminade.edu/student-life/counseling-services/>**.
12. **You are also expected to have read and to abide by the "Student Code of Conduct" (pp. 6 - 15) Chaminade University's Student Handbook.** The handbook is available at **<https://chaminade.edu/current-students/>** (select Student Handbook (pdf)). Please note standards of academic honesty expected of you. If you are unsure what your responsibilities are, please ask and I will be happy to help you or get you contact information if I cannot help.