Course Information and Logistics

This page contains information about the Introduction to Bioinformatics course offered in the Biophysics Department. The Syllabus for this course is split between this document (Logistics) and a separate list of topics and sessions (Schedule).

Course Instructor:  
Dr. Patrick Fleming  
pat.fleming@jhu.edu  
G85 UTL  
Office Hours: Flexible – Email me for a time and we will make it happen.

Classes will meet Tuesday and Thursday 10:30 - 11:45 am in the UTL G98 (Computer Lab).

Class Announcements All announcements regarding the course will be by email to your address in SIS; if you use a different email account you should check the official JHU account also.

Lecture Notes will be available for downloading from pages.jh.edu/pfleming/bioinform/. Access to the lecture notes is password protected. Login information will be given in class.

Text. There is no textbook for the course. All necessary reading material will be provided on-line or in class.

Computer lab. Access to the computer room outside of class is permitted and encouraged. Some computer experiments will take longer than lab time and completion of the experiments will be considered part of the homework assignments. A lab report for each lab is required. This report is expected within 24 hours after the in-class lab but will be accepted no later than 48 hours after the lab – after that the grade will be a zero.

Homework Assignments. Specifics will be given at the time of the assignments. The homework load in this class is relatively light. However, as mentioned above, completion of the computer labs is considered part of the homework assignment for each week. Questions on the exam will test your cognizance of the lab material. The grade for the last assignment (Find-genes project) is weighted as four assignments.

Exams. There will be one quiz, one midterm and a final exam.

Personal Presentation. At the end of the course each student will prepare a 5-10 PowerPoint slide presentation on a topic of personal interest in bioinformatics. This presentation will be uploaded to a discussion section on Blackboard and students are required to post at least two questions to the discussion. Details will be given in class.
Grading. Grades on the homework assignments, lab reports, the quiz, the mid-term and final exams, the personal presentation discussion and the Find-genes project will contribute to the final grade for the course. The mid-term and final exams will each count 25 percent, the quiz, lab reports, personal presentation, homework assignments and Find-genes paper will each count 10 percent toward the final grade. Grades will be posted on BlackBoard. Each student is responsible for checking BlackBoard to ensure that a grade has been entered for their submissions. Documents submitted by email do not always arrive at their intended destination and such problems must be cleared up within one week of the original due date.

Ethics Code. The administration has asked us to include the following statement relating to academic ethics in our course descriptions and we all take this very seriously. You are encouraged to collaborate with your fellow students during the computer labs. However, all material submitted to the instructor must be your own work.

Cheating is wrong. Cheating hurts our community by undermining academic integrity, creating mistrust, and fostering unfair competition. The university will punish cheaters with failure on an assignment, failure in a course, permanent transcript notation, suspension, and/or expulsion. Offenses may be reported to medical, law, or other professional or graduate schools when a cheater applies.

Violations can include cheating on exams, plagiarism, reuse of assignments without permission, improper use of the Internet and electronic devices, unauthorized collaboration, alteration of graded assignments, forgery and falsification, lying, facilitating academic dishonesty, and unfair competition. Ignorance of these rules is not an excuse.

You can read a full description of the ethics code at http://e-catalog.jhu.edu/undergrad-students/student-life-policies/