

## **MDSC 397**

### **Applied Bioinformatics**

#### **Instructors:**

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HSC 1189

#### **Office Hours/Policy on Answering Student Emails**

Office Hours: M-F 8:30-9:00am  
Student emails will be answered within 3 weekdays

#### **Time and Location:**

2020/01/03 - 2020/01/07  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 9:00am-5:00pm  
TI Studio F

#### **Prerequisite/Co-Requisite:**

Enrolment in Bioinformatics Major; or consent of the instructor.

#### **Course Description:**

This introductory block course will familiarize students with computational approaches to studying biology. Topics to be covered include common tools, databases, and search engines for storing, sharing, and analyzing biological information. Students will complete an original project analyzing publicly available data using publicly available computational tools.

#### **Overarching Theme**

The practice of bioinformatics involves both the application and development of analytical tools that leverage the unprecedented computing power presently available. This course will familiarize students with the computational tools available to them that can be applied to answer biological questions, and prepare them to effectively use these tools as part of a research project. Students will execute analyses on cutting edge research computing facilities available at the University of Calgary. Attendance is critical to effectively completing the course.

#### **Global Objectives**

- To familiarize students with the computational tools available to them that can be applied to answer biological questions. To prepare students to effectively use these tools as part of a research project.

## Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Access published datasets from public databases such as Genbank.
- Articulate the source and procedure followed by key publicly available computational tools, such as BLAST, CLUSTAL, and SWISS-Prot.
- Effectively use genome viewing/analysis software, such as the UCSC Genome Browser or other comparable tools.
- Execute a computational analysis using publicly available datasets and tools.
- Remotely manage, execute, and extract results from analyses on high-performance parallel computing facilities.
- Work effectively within groups to visualize analysis results, and to effectively communicate the meaning from that work in both group discussions and in written papers.

## Required Textbooks

There is no required textbook, however a list of required readings will be outlined on D2L and links and documents will be made available, where possible. Required readings have been chosen carefully to inform you and enhance the lecture material. **Students are REQUIRED to complete assigned readings BEFORE each lecture.** Instructors will proceed in class on the assumption that students have read completely the assigned readings. Students should be aware that many of the readings they will be assigned may be of an unfamiliar nature and style. Students should allot sufficient time to allow for several reads of the assigned material.

## Evaluation

The University policy on grading and related matters is described in section F.2 of the 2019-2020 Calendar.

In determining the overall grade in the course, the following weights will be used:

Engagement	10% - Deadline: Daily, January 6-10, 2020
In-class assignments	20% - Deadline: Daily, January 6-10, 2020
Project Proposal	15% - Deadline: January 7, 2020, by 11:59pm
Project Presentation	20% - Deadline: January 10, 2020
Final Paper	35% - Deadline: January 31, 2020

## A Note regarding Writing Assignments:

Writing skills are important to academic study in all disciplines. In keeping with the University of Calgary's emphasis on the importance of academic writing in student assignments (section E.2 of 2019-20 Calendar), writing is emphasized, and the grading thereof in determining a student's mark in this course. The Bachelor of Health Sciences values excellence in writing. Competence

in writing entails skills in crafting logical, clear, coherent, non-redundant sentences, paragraphs and broader arguments, as well as skills with the mechanics of writing (grammar, spelling, punctuation). The University of Calgary offers a number of instructional services through the Students' Success Centre's Writing Support Services (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/writingsupport/>) for students seeking feedback on assignments or seeking to improve their general writing skills. Students are **strongly encouraged** to take advantage of these programs.

### Grading Scheme:

Letter Grade	Description	Percentage
A+	Outstanding performance	97-100
A	Excellent performance	90-96
A-	Approaching excellent performance	85-89
B+	Exceeding good performance	80-84
B	Good performance	75-79
B-	Approaching good performance	70-74
C+	Exceeding satisfactory performance	65-69
C	Satisfactory performance	60-64
C-	Approaching satisfactory performance	57-59
D+	Marginal pass	54-56
D	Minimal pass	50-53
F	Did not meet course requirements	0-49

### Missed Components of Term Work:

**Students will lose 5% per day late past the deadline for all assignments.** In this case, assignments will **NOT** be accepted more than 72 hours after the posted deadline and students failing to submit any assignment within this time frame will receive a mark of zero. **Students who miss an in-class assignment will receive a mark of zero unless the instructor has been previously notified.** There will be **NO** exceptions to this policy except those in keeping with the University Calendar (debilitating illness, religious conviction, or severe domestic affliction) that are received in writing and with supporting documentation. Traffic jams and late or full buses are common events in Calgary and are NOT acceptable reasons for late arrivals to class, meetings and examinations. Please note that while absences are permitted for religious reasons, students are responsible for providing advance notice and adhering to other guidelines on this matter, as outlined in the University Calendar (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-4.html>).

### Brightspace by Desire2Learn (D2L)

Brightspace (by D2L) is located on the University of Calgary server and will be used extensively for communication with students. **It is the student's responsibility to ensure that they receive all posted communications and documents and that they receive emails sent by instructors or fellow students through D2L.** Only your @ucalgary.ca email address may be linked to D2L. Please ensure that you are regularly checking your @ucalgary.ca account.

If you need help accessing or using D2L, please visit the Desire2Learn resource page for students: <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/d2l-student/>.

## **Policies Governing the Course:**

### **Attendance**

Attendance will not be measured directly; however, most classes will include an in-class assignment. These assignments are worth a substantial portion of your final grade (20%), and so attendance is critical to achieving a high mark overall. An additional 10% comes from overall “engagement”, which will also be impacted by consistent absences.

### **Conduct During Lectures**

The classroom should be respected as a safe place to share ideas without judgement - a community in which we can all learn from one another. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a mature and courteous manner during ALL lectures. Students are expected to frame their comments and questions to lecturers in respectful and appropriate language, always maintaining sensitivity towards the topic.

**Students are expected to take notes during class and should not rely solely on material supplied by the instructors.**

### **Electronic Devices**

The Bachelor of Health Sciences program aims to create a supportive and respectful learning environment for all students. The use of laptop and mobile devices is acceptable when used in a manner appropriate to the course and classroom activities. However, research studies have found that inappropriate/off-topic use of electronic devices in the classroom negatively affects the learning of both the user and those sitting nearby. Students are to refrain from accessing websites that may be distracting for fellow learners (i.e. personal email, Facebook, YouTube).

Students are responsible for being aware of the University’s Internet and email use policy, which can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/electronic-communications-policy.pdf>

Cell phones (or similar devices) should **be turned off** (not merely silent) upon entering the classroom. Sending/receiving text messages or leaving the class to take calls is disruptive to the entire class and will not be tolerated unless absolutely necessary. Students who disregard this rule during lectures or tutorials will be asked to leave. These items are not permitted under any circumstance during exams/quizzes, etc.

### **Copyright**

It is the responsibility of students and professors to ensure that materials they post or distribute to others comply with the Copyright Act and the University’s Fair Dealing Guidance for Students ([library.ucalgary.ca/files/library/guidance\\_for\\_students.pdf](http://library.ucalgary.ca/files/library/guidance_for_students.pdf)). Further information for students is available on the Copyright Office web page (<http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright>)

### **A Note Regarding Instructor Intellectual Property**

Generally speaking, course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may **NOT** be reproduced,

redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. **The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited.** Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course *at the same time* may be allowed under fair dealing.

### **Academic Accommodations Based on Disability or Medical Condition**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

### **Accommodations on Protected Grounds other than Disability**

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor or to the designated BHSc program contact, Mrs. Jennifer Logan ([jljlogan@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jljlogan@ucalgary.ca)), or to Dr. Ebba Kurz, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Health and Science Education, Cumming School of Medicine. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

### **Academic Misconduct**

The University of Calgary is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. The University of Calgary has created rules to govern all its members regarding the creation of knowledge and the demonstration of knowledge having been learned. These rules are contained principally in Sections J to L of the *University of Calgary Calendar*. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. The Calendar also stipulates the penalties for violating these rules. Please know that the University and the Cumming School of Medicine take these rules seriously. **All incidences of academic dishonesty in this course, such as cheating and plagiarism, will be reported to the Associate Dean for investigation;** infractions will be noted on the record of a student found to be guilty.

### **Recording of Lectures**

Audio or video recording of lectures is prohibited except where explicit permission has been received from the instructor.

### **Other Important Information**

#### **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act**

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary

#### **Appeals**

If there is a concern with the course, academic matter or a grade, first communicate with the instructor. If these concerns cannot be resolved, students can proceed with an academic appeal, as per Section I of the University Calendar. Students must follow the official reappraisal/appeal process and may contact the Student Ombuds' Office (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds>) for

assistance with this and with any other academic concerns, including academic and non-academic misconduct. Students should be aware that concerns about graded term work may only be initiated **within 10 business days** of first being notified of the grade.

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

### **Resources for Support of Student Learning, Success, Safety and Wellness**

Student Success Centre	<a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/">http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/</a>
Student Wellness Centre	<a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/">http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/</a>
Distress Centre	<a href="http://www.distresscentre.com/">http://www.distresscentre.com/</a>
Library Resources	<a href="http://library.ucalgary.ca">http://library.ucalgary.ca</a>

### **Wellness and Mental Health Resources**

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the SU Wellness Centre (Room 370 MacEwan Student Centre, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

### **Student Ombuds' Office**

The Student Ombuds' Office supports and provides a safe, neutral space for students. For more information, please visit [www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/) or email [ombuds@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ombuds@ucalgary.ca)

### **BHSc Student Faculty Liaison Committee (SFLC)**

The BHSc SFLC, with elected representatives from all majors, serves to raise issues of interest to BHSc students to the program administration, including items pertaining to curriculum, scheduling and events. A list of current representatives can be found on the BHSc website.

### **Student Union (SU) Information**

The SU Vice-President Academic can be reached at (403) 220-3911 or [suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca).

### **Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points**

As part of the University of Calgary Emergency Evacuation plan, students, faculty, and staff should locate the closest Assembly Point in case of Fire Alarm. Safety signage is posted throughout the campus showing the locations and the possible route to these locations. All students, faculty, and staff are expected to promptly make their way to the nearest Assembly Point if the Fire Alarm is activated. No one is to return into campus facilities until an all clear is given to the warden in charge of the Assembly Area. For more information, see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/building-evacuation/assembly-points>

### **Safewalk**

Campus security will escort individuals, day or night, anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences Centre, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). Call 403-220-5333 or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the

yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths. Please ensure your personal safety by taking advantage of this service.

## Class Schedule

The following is a list of topics for class, associated readings, and assignment / exam due dates. Please note that unforeseen circumstances may cause changes to the schedule with respect to the timing of topics and readings. Students will be notified of all changes in a timely manner by way of email and D2L announcements. The exam dates are firm and will not be altered.

Date	Module / Topics	Instructor/Guest Lecturer	Readings	Assignments & Due Dates
Jan 6 - morning	Bioinformatics, defined  A Brief History of Bioinformatics  Central Dogma of Molecular Biology	Dave Anderson		In class
Jan 6 - afternoon	Alignment: Key approaches and innovations  BLAST and the Human Genome Project	Dave Anderson		In class  Groups assigned for projects
Jan 7 - morning	Essentials of parallel computing  Genes, Genomes, and Genbank  The Open Source Movement	Dave Anderson		In class
Jan 7 - afternoon	Tour: Advanced Research Computing (ARC)	Dave Anderson		Exercises in class Introduction to UCSC Genome Browser

	Remote operation of research computing machines			
Jan 8 - morning	Introduction to linux and bash  Shell scripting  Job management: Submitting jobs	Tatiana Maroilley		In class
Jan 8 - afternoon	Introduction to sequence-based functional assessment and evolutionary analyses  Performing phylogenetic reconstruction using genetic data  Effectiveness of phylogenetic analyses on parallel computing machines			Group Work: Begin project work  Proposals Due
Jan 9 - morning	Group work: present proposed project, provide and receive peer and instructor feedback	Everybody!		In class
Jan 9 - afternoon	Introduction to Markov Models	Dave Anderson		Project work

	Importance of Data Visualization			
Jan 10 - morning	Group Work: Finalize analyses and visualizations	Everybody!		In class
Jan 10 - afternoon	Group Presentations of research projects	Everybody!		In class