

Course: Computer Skills for Biologists

Course Instructor: Dr. James A. Foster

Dr. Foster will manage the course, will deliver the module on Python programming, and will help students with their projects. Dr. Foster holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science, and taught in the CS Department for 15 years. He is now a Professor of Biology, Scientific Advisor for the IBEST Computational Resources Core, and Director of the Idaho INBRE Bioinformatics Core.



Guest Instructor: Dr. Celeste Brown

Dr. Brown will lead the UNIX module for the course. Dr. Brown holds a Ph.D in genomics and an M.S. in statistics, and is an Research Professor in Biology. She has extensive experience with applied bioinformatics, and is the Idaho INBRE Bioinformatics Coordinator.



This course develops skills to manage and analyze complicated datasets such as those in molecular evolution, systematics, (meta)genomics, and transcriptomics. Datasets in biology are growing explosively, so computational skills are vital for graduate studies and technical careers in the life sciences. This course will use demonstrations, exercises, and student projects to learn advanced Unix skills, Python programming, and data management.

This course is explicitly designed to prepare students for independent research in biological sciences and will also be helpful for those students taking Biol 421, Advanced Evolutionary Biology; Biol 444, Genomics; or Biol 545, Principles of Systematic Biology.

Enrollment is limited to the first 24 students.

Prerequisites: Stat 251 and Biology 210, or permission of instructor. Registration priority for grad students.

Classes meet Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:00PM–2:15PM in Life Sciences South 440 (the IBEST Classroom)

For more information, contact Dr. James A. Foster at foster@uidaho.edu

