Course Information

Instructor: Craig Hunter [Craig_Hunter@harvard.edu]

Office Hours: 1pm-2pm Monday and by appt (please email ahead of time so that I can remain available).

Teaching Fellow: Christopher Bakerlee [chrisbakerlee@gmail.com]

Office Hours: 1pm-2pm Tuesday in NW Labs 454 and by appt

Course hours: 10-11:30 Tuesday and Thursday

Classroom: Biological Labs 1058

Prerequisites: LS1A/B, MCB52, MCB54 (or their equivalent)

Course description
A goal of human genetics is to provide a molecular and cellular basis for understanding human health and disease. This course explores the genetic basis for modern genomic analysis, the recent discoveries, and the challenges. This lecture/discussion course relies on the primary literature and contemporary review articles.

Course Aims and Objectives
Students will learn to read and understand scientific papers and write organized and concise summaries of selected articles. In addition, students will prepare short scientific reports on current topics in human genetics. Students are expected to gain a solid understanding of important genetic concepts, methods, and applications.

Course Policies and Expectations
Class attendance is mandatory and all assignments must be turned in. There is no separate section.

Materials and Access
All course materials will be posted on the website or are available from Harvard University Library Websites.

Assignments and Grading Procedures
Students will participate in formal and informal class discussions. Participation is mandatory. In addition, students will prepare five short (>250 words) summaries on contemporary research articles. These can be re-written (once each) for an improved score. Two short (1500-2000 words) research reports (due Oct 5th and Nov 9th) and a mid-length (3500-5000 words) review on the current state of a field of human genetics, focusing on a single student-selected research article (due Dec 8th). Final grades will be determined by quality, inferred effort, and demonstrated improvement over the semester.

Academic Integrity
Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in a zero score.

â€œPlagiarism
Any material submitted to meet course requirements â€“ homework assignments, papers,projects, examinations â€“ is expected to be a studentâ€™s own work. During the first week of freshman year the importance of correct citation is stressed, and in the required first-year writing course, Expository Writing, undergraduates are urged to take great care in distinguishing their own ideas and thoughts from information and analysis derived from sources. Although instructors are encouraged to take every opportunity to reinforce and develop these lessons, the final responsibility for knowing proper forms of citation rests with students.â€

(From: Information for Faculty Offering Instruction in Arts and Science.)

Accommodations for students with disabilities

Students needing academic adjustments or accommodations because of a documented disability must present their Faculty Letter from the Accessible Education Office (AEO) and speak with the professor by the end of the second week of the term. Failure to do so may result in the Course Head's inability to respond in a timely manner. All discussions will remain confidential, although Faculty are invited to contact AEO to discuss appropriate implementation.