

Genetics 110: Genetics Orientation/First Year Experience in Genetics

Genetics, The Secret of Life Learning Community

Meeting Time and Location: Thursdays from 2:10-3:00PM in Agronomy 2020

Instructor: Dr. Lois Girton E-mail: lgirton@iastate.edu Office: 109 Bessey Hall

Senior Peer Mentor: Marena Bartz E-mail: mbartz@iastate.edu

Junior Peer Mentor: Rachel Weber E-mail: rcweber@iastate.edu

Sophomore Peer Mentor: Jared Haupt E-mail: jlhaupt@iastate.edu

Sophomore Peer Mentor: Courtney Smith E-mail: clsmith1@iastate.edu

Book Club Reading: *The Language of Life, DNA and the Revolution in Personalized Medicine*, Francis S. Collins, 2010 – Books will be supplied to students.

Course description: This course is intended for first year students and others new to the curriculum. It is designed to assist students in adjusting to life at Iowa State University and in becoming successful scholars of genetics. Discussion topics include campus resources, study skills, opportunities for study abroad, career planning, professionalism, and individualized research experiences. Instructors, peer mentors, and guest speakers will present on these topics. All students enrolled in the course are also considered members of the **Genetics: Secret of Life Learning Community**.

Learning Outcomes:

- A. To foster connections between students, peer mentors, staff, and faculty.
- B. To increase knowledge of the requirements, sequencing, course content, and other policies pertaining to the major, colleges, and university so that students make informed decisions and appropriate progress towards completion of the degree.
- C. To educate and inspire participants about the current and future impact of genetics and the various career paths that genetics alumni are prepared to take.
- D. To create awareness of out-of-class opportunities, including both on-campus and off-campus resources, available to students.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is extremely important and is a large portion of the earned grade. Students are expected to participate in class activities and to be respectful of the instructor, guest speakers, peer mentors, and fellow students by turning off cell phones and other electronic devices during class time. Students also need to attend several out-of-class activities.

Grading: Grading is by letter grade and is based on class attendance and completion of assignments.

- A. Attendance at Gen 110 Classes: 60 points possible** – 4 points will be earned for each week of attendance.
- B. Written Assignments: 70 points** Submit all assignments electronically (as Word or pdf files) through **BlackBoard Learn**.
- C. Written Reflections on Out-of-Class Activities: 20 points**

Total Possible Points: 150 (160 with bonus)

Grading Scheme:

| Letter Grade | Points | % |
|--------------|----------|--------|
| A | 140 -150 | 93.3 + |
| A- | 135 -139 | 90 |
| B+ | 130-134 | 86.7 |
| B | 125-129 | 83.3 |
| B- | 120-124 | 80 |
| C+ | 115-119 | 76.7 |
| C | 110-114 | 73.3 |
| C- | 105-110 | 70 |
| D+ | 100-104 | 66.7 |
| D | 95 -99 | 63.3 |
| D- | 90-94 | 60 |
| F | <90 | <60 |

B. Written Assignments: 70 points

- Due Thurs September 10 --Book Review: 15 points possible.** Topics and books will be given out at June orientation.
- Due Thurs September 24-- Resumes: up to 15 points** may be earned by completing two resumes – one reflecting current status and one as you would like your resume to read upon graduation.
- Due Thurs, October 15 -- Assignment on Professionalism: 5 points possible** Critique and re-write of sample emails received from students.
- Due Thurs, November 5 -- Interview with Alumnus: 20 points possible** Assignment will be discussed in class on October 8th. Each student will be paired with an alumnus who will be notified as to whom to expect to be in contact.
 - Students will write a reflection to be peer reviewed on **November 5th**.
 - Final paper is **due on November 12th**
- Due Thurs, November 19 -- Four Year/ Success Plan: 15 points possible** Assignment will be discussed in class on October 29th. It will include your plan for courses and other activities (study abroad, internships, research, volunteer work, leadership, etc.) relevant to your particular career plan.
- BONUS: Due Thurs, December 3 – Genetics in the News – 5 points** Bring a recent (within the past 2 months) article to class to discuss with others.

C. Reflections on Out-of-class Activities: 20 points

- Due September 18:** Schedule a **meeting with a peer mentor** during the first four weeks of class; attend the meeting and submit a reflection on that meeting in Bb Learn – **5 points**
- Due November 5: Attend 3 additional activities and submit reflections – 15 points** Students should try to include **at least one event** in each of the other categories below (Learning Community, Campus Resources, Major-Related Clubs) but that is not mandatory. Students are strongly encouraged to complete this assignment well before the final deadline of November 5th as learning community activities and other events may be “front-loaded” – more activities during the early part of the semester.

3. BONUS: Due by Friday, Oct 2nd – MAPWorks Survey – Complete the survey and write a reflection on it.

Guidelines for and Grading of Reflections: A reflection should be at least one paragraph with an introductory sentence describing the activity and the date of attendance, two or three additional sentences detailing what you gained or hoped to gain from participation in that activity and a concluding sentence.

Earn 5 points by: participation in an activity and submission of a well-written reflection **within a week** of the event.

Earn 4 points by: participation in an activity and submission of a less-than-adequate reflection **within a week** of the event.

Earn 3 points by: participation in an activity and submission of an adequate reflection **later than one week after** the event.

Earn 2 points by: participation in an activity and submission of a less-than-adequate reflection **later than one week after** the event.

Earn 0 points by: no reflection, even if attending multiple events

Example Activities:

A. Genetics Learning Community Events

- Welcome Event – Ice Cream Social, Sunday, Aug. 23rd
- Field trip, movie night, etc. (dates to be announced later)
- Service Learning for Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Friday, Nov. 6th
- Study session or meeting with peer mentor (times to be determined)

B. Campus Resources:

- Supplemental Instruction session <http://www.dso.iastate.edu/asc/supplemental/>
- Academic Success Center Workshop <http://www.dso.iastate.edu/asc/>
- Individual Tutoring <http://www.dso.iastate.edu/asc/tutoring>
- Wellness Center Session: Appointments 294-1868; <http://www.health.iastate.edu/>
- Study Abroad Fair: Thursday, September 17th 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM Durham Great Hall, Memorial Union
- Career Fairs <http://www.career.iastate.edu/career-fairs/>
 - Business, Industry and Technology Career Fair: Wednesday, September 30, 12 noon – 6 PM, Hilton Coliseum
 - College of Agriculture and Life Sciences: Tuesday, October 20, 9 AM - 3 PM, Lied Recreation Athletic Center
- College of Agriculture and Life Sciences or Liberal Arts and Sciences Career Office or Workshop
- Departmental Seminars in GDCB, BBMB, or EEOB

C. Club Activities

- **Genetics Club** meeting or activity <https://www.stuorg.iastate.edu/site/geneticsclub>
- **Biological Sciences Club** meeting <https://www.stuorg.iastate.edu/site/109>
- **Undergraduate Microbiology Club** meeting <https://www.stuorg.iastate.edu/site/330>
- Pre-Professional Club meeting (Pre-Vet/Pre-Med/Pre-Dental/Entrepreneur Clubs, etc.)
 - Pre-Medical Professions Club: <https://www.stuorg.iastate.edu/site/390>
 - Pre-Veterinary Club: <https://www.stuorg.iastate.edu/site/712>

Treat every instructor/peer mentor/SI leader/TA/advisor/faculty mentor as a potential author of a letter of recommendation! Even one unpleasant encounter, phone call, or e-mail can reduce your chances of a GREAT recommendation!

Class Schedule:

| Week | Date | Activity | Presenter(s) |
|------|---------|--|---|
| 1 | Aug 28 | First Week Essentials | Peer Mentors, Lois Girton |
| 2 | Sept 3 | Campus Resources | Peer mentors – Marena Bartz and Rachel Weber |
| 3 | Sept 10 | Discussion of Book | Peer mentors * Book review due |
| 4 | Sept 17 | Career Services; resume writing | Taren Crow, LAS Career Services *Peer mentor meeting & reflection due by Sept 18th |
| 5 | Sept 24 | Upperclassman Panel/ 110 Visit Day | Junior and Senior Students * passports due (not required) *Resumes due |
| 6 | Oct 1 | Coursework | Genetics Faculty teaching Core Courses |
| 7 | Oct 8 | Registration, Interview Procedures | Peer Mentors, Lois Girton |
| 8 | Oct 15 | Alumni Panel | Genetics alumni * Professionalism Assignment Due |
| 9 | Oct 22 | Some Extras: Obtaining Research Experience; Study Abroad | Study abroad staff/students |
| 10 | Oct 29 | Four Year/ Success Plans | Peer Mentors, Lois Girton |
| 11 | Nov 5 | Peer Reviews of Interview Reports | Students *Activities Due |
| 12 | Nov 12 | Personalized Genomic Medicine | Colleen Campbell, PhD, CGC, Univ of Iowa, Iowa Institute of Human Genetics *Interview Assignment Due |
| 13 | Nov 19 | Faculty Connections | Genetics Faculty *Four Year/ Success Plan Due |
| 14 | Dec 3 | Genetics in the News | * Genetics in the News Assignment Due |
| 15 | Dec 10 | Reflections | Peer Mentors, Lois Girton |

Passport to Success: This is not a required assignment but fits well with other required activities. It is a scavenger hunt for you to find the locations of useful resources/offices on campus or to attend events. It is sponsored by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences but open to all Genetics majors regardless of College. There are two slots labeled Department specific – for these, attend Genetics Club, go to a Study Group, or have a one-on-one meeting with a peer mentor or your advisor. Return the completed passport to me by **September 24th** if you wish to have your name in the drawings for prizes.

Drop Information: You may drop this or any other class in AccessPlus by Friday, August 28^h by 4 PM without penalty. **A signed pink add/drop slip is required to drop a class after the first week of classes.** The last day to drop this and other full semester classes is **Oct 30th, at 4 PM.** Any drop after August 28th will count towards the total of five (or fewer for transfer students) you are allowed during your undergraduate career at Iowa State. For other important dates, see the Academic Calendar <http://registrar.iastate.edu/calendar/cal-fall5>

Students with Disabilities

Iowa State University is committed to assuring that all educational activities are free from discrimination and harassment based on disability status. All students requesting accommodations are required to meet with staff in Student Disability Resources (SDR) to establish eligibility. A Student Academic Accommodation Request (SAAR) form will be provided to eligible students. The provision of reasonable accommodations in this course will be arranged after timely delivery of the SAAR form to the instructor. Students are encouraged to deliver completed SAAR forms as early in the semester as possible. SDR, a unit in the Dean of Students Office, is located in room 1076, Student Services Building or online at www.dso.iastate.edu/dr/. Contact SDR by e-mail at disabilityresources@iastate.edu or by phone at 515-294-7220 for additional information.

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