

**Course:**

- BIOL 4350- DNA: Code of Life: A basic introduction to human genetics and explorations into the technological and ethical aspects of current controversial genetics issues. May not be used to count toward electives in the biology major.
- Crosslisted with HONS 3100- Methods of Inquiry in Science. Students will explore and apply a variety of investigative methodologies drawn from the natural sciences. Emphasis on making connections across disciplines and applying skills of scientific research to personal and team-based studies of complex problems.
- 3 units. Prerequisites: Completion of G.E. area B and junior standing. *Completion of one semester of college-level biology is highly recommended.* Satisfies G.E. area UD-B. Upper Division G.E. courses are designed to be taken after upper-division status (completion of 60 semester units) is attained.

**Required Materials:**

- **Textbook:** Textbook: Human Genetics: Concepts and Applications (12<sup>th</sup> edition), by Ricki Lewis
- **Blackboard Access:** Students are expected to check the Blackboard site at least three-times a week for updates, announcements, instructions, assigned readings, tutorials, homework and due dates.
- **Laptop:** You may be asked to bring your laptop to class every once in a while. Only one person per pair or group will need to bring the laptop.

**Dates:** Assignment dues dates will be posted a week in advance on Blackboard.

- **Enrollment and Census:** September 5: Last day to add a class. September 19: Census Date- Last day to drop a class and last day to request CR/NC grading option without instructor consent.
- **Exams:** Sept 12, Oct 10, Nov 7 and Dec 10 (tentative). Final Exam Period: Dec 17, 11:15-1:15 pm.

**Grading:** The total grade will be based out of 400 points. This scheme may change slightly during the semester.

<b>Homework</b>		20%
Assignments		40 points
Project		40 points
<b>In Class</b>		30%
Quizzes	Best 7 of 8	70 points
Activities	up to	50 points
<b>Exams</b>		50%
Midterms	Best 2 of 3	120 points
Final Exam		80 points
<b>Total</b>		<b>400 points</b>

<b>A</b>	≥ 93%
<b>A-</b>	92.9 - 90
<b>B+</b>	89.9 - 87
<b>B</b>	86.9 - 83
<b>B-</b>	82.9 - 80
<b>C+</b>	79.9 - 77
<b>C</b>	76.9 - 73
<b>C-</b>	72.9 - 70
<b>D+</b>	69.9 - 67
<b>D</b>	66.9 - 60
<b>F</b>	< 60
<b>CR</b>	>69.99
<b>NC</b>	<70.0

- **Extra Credit:** There are very few opportunities for extra credit. Any extra points offered as a part of a graded item will be applied directly to that items grade. "Stand alone" extra credit opportunities will not initially be calculated into your final course grade. They will only be included if they clearly bump up your letter grade. (Example: You have a B-, and are three points away from a B. If you have one point extra credit, you will receive the B- you earned. If you have three points extra credit, you will receive a B.)

**Class:** Attending lecture is crucial. Missing three classes may result in you being dropped from the class. Attendance is marked based on taking roll, and/or completion of the in-class assignments and/or quiz. Students are expected to come to class prepared and participate in all lecture and discussion activities.

- **Daily Activities:** Since much of this class is discussion based, students will often be given small activities to complete in class almost every class meeting. These will not be handed back. These will most often be graded on a 3-point, “plus, check, minus, naught” system unless otherwise noted. For each student, the totals received on these activities will be summed. A maximum of 50 points may be earned. You must be present in order to earn credit for the activities. If someone writes your name on a group activity for which you were not present to complete, everyone in the group will receive a double zero for that activity.

**Tests:** For exams and quizzes, you will not be allowed to leave the room once the test has started. Calculations will be simple so you will not be allowed to use a calculator. Tests will be based on any and all of the following: In-class discussions, information on the lecture slides, textbook reading, and additional assigned readings/videos. At the end of the semester, your lowest midterm exam score and your lowest quiz score will be dropped.

- **Quizzes:** May be announced or unannounced (pop) quizzes, and may be given at any time during the class. 10 points, 10 minutes each. Format: Multiple choice, matching, fill-in, short answer. No scantron needed.
- **Midterm exams:** 60 points, 60 minutes. Multiple choice, matching, fill-in, short answer and mini-essay questions, in which you will be expected to apply information, and back up any opinions with scientific logic. Be sure to bring a blank 882-E scantron and your student ID to every exam.
- **The Final Exam:** 80 points, 60 minutes. Cumulative. Format: Mostly or all multiple choice. Be sure to bring a blank 882-E scantron and your student ID.

#### **Homework:**

- **Assignments:** Different types of assignments that will be assigned throughout the semester. Assignments are often worth 10 points. Assignments are designed to (1) help students develop their interest and desire to learn more about various course-related topics, and/or (2) introduce students to the examples of how concepts learned in class can apply to real-world situations.
- **Final Project:** Worth 10% of total class grade. Students will combine the information they’ve learned and the insight they’ve developed over the course of the semester to complete the final project. The project will have group and individual components, and will be completed in a series of steps.

**Access and accommodations:** This course is ADA accessible. Students requiring special learning services and accommodations are encouraged to consult the Disability Resource Services office on campus. Course-related services include, notetakers, sign language interpreters, special testing accommodations, extra time for exams, and permission to record lectures.

#### **Contacting the instructor:**

- Please **do not email me over non-urgent matters.** Emails should be sent to [jnewton4@csustan.edu](mailto:jnewton4@csustan.edu) with “Bio 4350” in the subject line. I often only check my email twice a day during the week and not at all during weekends. Not all emails will receive a response, particularly if the concern will be addressed, or if a question can be asked in lecture/during office hours.
- **Office hours** will be weekly, **Fri 11:00 – noon.** Please remember that office hours are pretty much open to everyone, including people from other courses, or students with non-course related business. Additional office hours can easily be made with Dr. Newton by appointment. Please specify if you’d like the meeting to be one-on-one, or open for other students to attend. Unless otherwise noted, please assume any office hours will be in N 254.

## Absences, and Make-Ups:

- Any student that has **three or more unexcused absences may be dropped** from the class by the instructor.
- Unless otherwise noted, **all assignments are due by the beginning of class**. Assignments may be turned in ahead of time. Assignments will lose 10% of their grade for each day turned in late, for up to five days (if turned in 15 minutes after the start of class, it is considered a day late).
- **If you are absent, you should email a clear image of the assignment to the instructor**. The email must be received in the instructor's inbox before the start of class. Remember that sending an email does not guarantee that it will be received in time, and last-minute "technical difficulties" are not a valid excuse. In order to receive a grade, the **hard copy must still be turned in** when you return to class.
- Athletes who will be absent due to athletic competition/event are expected to provide documentation of the event dates, and take exams/turn in assignments prior to the event. The student is also responsible for reminding the instructor of an upcoming absence, and for scheduling a date/time to take the exam. Failure to do so in a timely fashion results in a zero.
- **There will be no make-ups for assignments, quizzes, exams (including the final)**. If you arrive late to a test, you will not be given any extra time. If you miss a test, you will receive a zero. Exceptions:
  - **Death or imminent hospitalization** of an immediate family member or dependent on the day of the test. This requires proper documentation.
  - Students who experience an **incapacitating illness or accident** on the day of the test. This requires a note from the student's physician (not a family member) or from the University Health Services. Documentation must explicitly show or state that the illness, injury, or incident occurred during the time of the class, or directly prevented the student from taking the test. Documentation must be provided within 5 days of the missed test.
  - It is not uncommon for students to experience bouts of being **emotionally overwhelmed and extremely stressed** during their college career. If these feelings become incapacitating, the student is advised to seek help from a health professional. Make-ups will be allowed if the student provides a signed note from a physician or licensed clinical therapist. The note must explicitly list date range of incapacitation (past and/or estimated future) and detail the limitations to the student's academic activities (i.e. cannot physically attend class, is incapable of completing mentally challenging tasks, etc). Your mental health is your business, so the note does need to give any diagnoses or confidential information.
  - Make-up tests may be different versions of the original test, but the concepts and format will remain the same.

## Cheating: Cheating is absolutely forbidden.

- Any of the following are considered cheating:
  - **Plagiarism**, or using another person's words and passing them off as your own.
  - **Copying** wording, answers, and materials from another source. Thus includes assignments and tests, whether from current or previous classmates, or another source.
  - **Using devices, resources, or other material** that have not been explicitly allowed during tests is prohibited. Cheating includes using notes, searching the internet, or consulting other resources during any test, including online quizzes.
  - **Altering answers or grades** on a graded material, then trying to have the grade changed is cheating.
  - **False representation** of you as someone else in this course is a gravely serious offense. Signing in, taking quizzes, or completing any course material for another student is considered cheating.
- A person cheating receives a 0 for that assignment/test; their name and a description of the offense may be sent to the Dean of Students. Any zeros received on tests due to cheating cannot be dropped. Cheating offenses may be punished by disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion. These actions may be noted on your transcript! If you think a fellow student is cheating we urge you to discretely tell us about it. We will maintain your anonymity.