

# California State University | Stanislaus

## BIOL 4840-002: Genetic Biotechnology

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Instructor:	Dr. James J. Youngblom	Term:	Spring 2017
Office:	Naraghi Hall 260/264	Lecture Times:	Mon. 5:30-7:20
Office Phone:	664-6924/667-3950	Lab Times:	Wed. 5:30-7:20
Best way to contact me:	jyoungblom@csustan.edu	Place:	Naraghi Hall 334
Office Hours:	<b><u>Wednesday 10:30-12:00 pm, Thursday 11:30-1:00, or by appt.</u></b>		

### **University Course Catalog Description**

BIOL 4840 3.0 units. Principles and applications of recombinant DNA technology. Emphasis on the tools of gene manipulation, genomic scale analysis, and bioinformatics. Weekly activity involving DNA analysis software. (Lecture, 2 hours; activity, 2 hours). **Prerequisite: BIOL 3350.**

### **Course Requirements**

Students need knowledge of DNA structure, eukaryotic gene organization, transcription and translation, Mendelian genetic terminology, molecular properties, and chemical bonds. Basic level computer skills are required (web browsing, word, excel).

### **What is this course about?**

All of the labs involve the use of DNA sequence analysis software. Students will become familiar with some of the most common methods for analyzing DNA sequences. In addition, students will be reinforcing what they have learned about how biology research progresses. After four weeks of practice exercises, students will spend a couple of months working on an independent research project that will create publishable information. The Wednesday activities will also reinforce some important genetic concepts for the students- what is the structure of a eukaryotic gene, how do genes evolve, and how can a single gene create variable protein products.

### **Required Text-**

- 1) None for the lab activities

### **Dates to Remember-**

Mon. Sept. 4- Campus closed, Labor Day  
Wed. Sept. 20- Last day to drop a course  
Wed. Oct. 11- No classes, Columbus Day

Fri. Nov. 10- Campus closed Veteran's Day  
Thurs., Fri. Nov. 23-24, Thanksgiving Break  
Mon. Dec. 11- Last day of classes

## **Lab Assessments Total = 250 pts.-**

Lab Reports (weeks 1-4) 60 pts. possible

Annotation Test- Wed. Oct. 18, 0 pts.

Final Annotation reports- Wednesday, Nov. 22, 7:20 p.m., 150 points

Oral Presentation (Lab work) - Wednesday Dec. 6, 40 points

**(In addition there will be a 25 pt question on how to annotate a gene on your final exam!)**

### **Make-up:**

If you know you cannot be in class, please see me beforehand so we can discuss the situation. I may allow you to turn in materials at a later date. If something comes up unexpectedly on the day of class, please contact me, especially if an assignment is due. If you leave a message, leave a phone number, so we can be in touch. Do not 'let it ride' and plan on discussing it with me later. If I don't hear from you promptly, you get penalized for late assignments.

### **Assessments**

**Lab Reports 1-4-** 15 pts. each. These are submitted via google forms and are due on the following Wednesday at 5:30 pm. Late reports are penalized 1.5 pts. per day. Each person submits a report.

**Annotation test** (Oct. 18) - The annotation test is to confirm that students have learned the basics of gene annotation. Students failing the annotation test on Oct. 18 will take another annotation test on Oct. 25. Students passing the annotation test will be rewarded (TBA). Students failing the annotation test twice lose 15 pts on their final annotation report score.

**Annotation reports (written [150 pts.] and oral [40 pts]).** - The annotations reports are the final products from your gene annotation projects. The type of reports for each gene in your cosmid is well documented and will be explained as you learn how to annotate genes. Your grade will be determined by the neatness, accuracy, thoroughness, coherency, and timeliness of your reports. Each time a section of your report needs to be rewritten, there is a penalty. Reports can be submitted throughout November. All reports are due at 7:20 p.m. on Nov. 22. Tardiness on the annotation reports will result in a penalty: 10% if it is 1 workday late, or 20% for 2-5 workdays late, 30% if 6-10 workdays late. These assignments will not be accepted if overdue by more than 10 workdays. If the report is returned to you for corrections or additions, the edited version is due back to your instructor in 5 days. Late returns will incur penalties.

**Oral presentation-** You should create a PowerPoint lecture to summarize the most interesting findings of your gene annotation project. You do not need to explain basic genetic terms that have already been explained in class. Rehearse your PowerPoint presentation. The presentation should be 6'-8' minutes in length. **Your score will be deducted if your presentation is too long or too short.** You are not allowed to read anything during your presentation. No reading of notes and no reading of your PowerPoint slides. Use your PowerPoint slides as a rough outline

for you to follow and then know the material well enough to explain each slide without reading it or using notes. Show important screen captures from the analysis of your cosmid and explain them to the class.

### The labs:

BIOL 4840 provides CSU Stanislaus undergraduates the opportunity to contribute to original research involving a large-scale DNA sequencing projects from Washington University St. Louis Genome Sequencing Center. Students will analyze portions of chromosome 4 of *Drosophila eugracilis* and compare the data to chromosomes of *D. melanogaster* to determine genome *D. eugracilis* organization. The lab tools will be various types of DNA sequence analysis software. If you successfully complete the annotation of your *Drosophila* clone, give your instructor reliable contact information. You will be contacted to see if you want to be a co-author when The Genomics Education Partnership is ready to publish a paper on the comparative genomics of various species of *Drosophila*.

- During the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the semester, the class will work together to explore several DNA analysis software tools. During this time, students will learn how to analyze genomic data. Homework from these labs is due at the start of the next lab.
- At the Sept. 20 lab meeting, each student will be assigned a file of DNA from *Drosophila eugracilis* (35-59 kb).
- All students will complete a brief annotation test.
- Independent work will happen in class and outside of class.
- On Dec. 6 each student(s) will give a 6-8' minute PowerPoint presentation, summarizing their most interesting annotation problem.**

### Class information:

The website <http://www.csustan.edu/Blackboard/> will have a link for this class. On Blackboard, I will post materials pertaining to this class. For example, lab handouts are available on Blackboard.

### Notes:

Each Wednesday you work on a computer. Laptops are provided if needed. All of the DNA tools we will use are web-based. If you want to work on your own laptop, you can as long as you can connect to the internet in Naraghi Hall. The first four weeks are structured and will include a lab handout that is due the following week. The first hour (or so) of class will be your instructor introducing some important concepts. Both the lab exercises and demonstration materials will be available electronically on the class Blackboard site.

### Email

I will use email to send you course announcements. The emails are sent to your csustan email account. Email is the good way for you to communicate with me outside of class time. I check my email many times per day on weekdays and periodically on weekends.

**Student Conduct-** The Wednesday activities will run the full two hours. Attendance is required. Do not enroll in this class if you have conflicts or other commitments on Wednesday evenings. Be on time for class. During the first minutes of many Wednesday lab periods we will discuss the day's activities. Do not leave the classroom in the middle of a discussion. Do not use cell phones, ipods, or other electronic devices during class. Computers are only allowed in class as a tool for class exercises.

**Cheating/Academic Dishonesty-** Students caught cheating are prosecuted as described in the university catalog. A report is filed with the Dean of Student Affairs. Class homework assignments are not group projects. Copying from someone's paper and presenting it as your own is a form of academic dishonesty. All electronic devices (including phones) & headphones must be kept in purses or backpacks during the exams and quizzes. No exceptions. You can use a real calculator and not the calculator function on a cell phone or PDA.

**Taping Policy-** Audiotaping of classes is permitted only with prior permission of the instructor; videotaping is not permitted under any circumstances. Authorized tapes are for the personal use of the student, and may not be distributed to others without the permission of the instructor.

**Guest Policy-** Guests are generally not permitted in this class. For an exception to this policy you must request prior permission.