

Course Syllabus
Human Genetics Journal Club and Peer Review (HUGEN 2028)
Spring Semester 2020
Friday, 1:30-2:30 PM, Room A215 Crabtree

Instructor: Zsolt Urban
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Office hours: By appointment
Course website: <http://courseweb.pitt.edu>.

Goals of the Course

The goal of the one-credit course, Journal Club and Peer Review, is twofold: (1) to practice critiquing papers and information from the media and (2) learn to develop a Curriculum Vitae (CV) and Individual Development Plan (IDP).

Rationale:

The purpose of this course is to provide an environment in which to hone your written and oral critical evaluation skills, practice for the M.S. and Ph.D. qualifying exams in Human Genetics, and prepare documents to help assess your graduate and future careers.

Objectives:

- Upon completion, students will be able to
- critique papers from the literature and the media
 - practice presentation skills
 - develop an individualized development plan for their graduate career
 - develop a curriculum vita

Teaching Philosophy:

This course emphasizes active participation, critical thinking, and continued learning. Because we all know different things and have experienced different events, all questions and viewpoints are encouraged and respected in the classroom and in groups. Everybody should participate - let Zsolt Urban be your role model: ask stupid questions, float crazy ideas, and don't be embarrassed. [Note: There really are no stupid questions, and crazy ideas are the basis of scientific innovation]. You will need critical thinking skills to be successful in your career in science.

Responsibilities and Expectations of Students in the Classroom:

- Please turn off cell phones and do not record lecture or presentation unless you have received prior approval from the instructor.
- **For the student presentations**, read the abstract, bring a copy of the paper, and have thought about it a little. Identify some questions ahead of time.
- Ask questions. If you don't understand what's interesting or important about the paper, ask. If you don't understand the terminology being used in the presentation, ask. **(If you don't ask, Zsolt may ask you to explain.)**
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Responsibilities and expectations for presenters

- Students are encouraged to get advice from a faculty member when choosing a paper to present. The ideal journal club article is something that is of both scientific importance and general interest.

- Let the instructor know what your choice is the week before your presentation so that the link can be posted on the web site.
- Please let the instructor know if you need a laptop or other media requirements.
- Presentations should begin with an introduction to the general topic area and what is interesting or important about the work being presented. Try to explain key concepts and definitions. Do not assume everyone in the audience is an expert or that everyone in the audience has read the paper.

Academic Integrity:

All students are expected to adhere to the school's standards of academic honesty. Cheating/plagiarism will not be tolerated. The Graduate School of Public Health's policy on academic integrity, which is based on the University policy, is available online in the Pitt Public Health Academic Handbook www.publichealth.pitt.edu/home/academics/academic-requirements. The policy includes obligations for faculty and students, procedures for adjudicating violations, and other critical information. Please take the time to read this policy.

Sexual Misconduct, Required Reporting and Title IX Statement:

The University is committed to combatting sexual misconduct. As a result, you should know that University faculty and staff members are required to report any instances of sexual misconduct, including harassment and sexual violence, to the University's Title IX office so that the victim may be provided appropriate resources and support options. What this means is that as your professor, I am required to report any incidents of sexual misconduct that are directly reported to me, or of which I am somehow made aware.

There are two important exceptions to this requirement about which you should be aware: A list of the designated University employees who, as counselors and medical professionals, do not have this reporting responsibility and can maintain confidentiality, can be found here: www.titleix.pitt.edu/report/confidentiality

An important exception to the reporting requirement exists for academic work. Disclosures about sexual misconduct that are shared as part of an academic project, classroom discussion, or course assignment, are not required to be disclosed to the University's Title IX office.

If you are the victim of sexual misconduct, Pitt encourages you to reach out to these resources:

- Title IX Office: 412-648-7860
- SHARE @ the University Counseling Center: 412-648-7930 (8:30 A.M. TO 5 P.M. M-F) and 412-648-7856 (AFTER BUSINESS HOURS)

If you have a safety concern, please contact the University of Pittsburgh Police, 412-624-2121. Other reporting information is available here: www.titleix.pitt.edu/report-0

Statement from the Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies

[This statement was developed by Katie Pope, Title IX Coordinator, in conjunction with GSWS instructors.]

Diversity Statement:

The University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health considers the diversity of its students, faculty, and staff to be a strength and critical to its educational mission. Pitt Public Health is committed to creating and fostering inclusive learning environments that value human dignity and equity. Every member of our community is expected to be respectful of the individual perspectives, experiences, behaviors, worldviews, and backgrounds of others. While intellectual disagreement may be constructive, no derogatory statements, or demeaning or discriminatory behavior will be permitted. If you feel uncomfortable or would like to discuss a situation, please contact any of the following:

- the course instructor;
- the Pitt Public Health Associate Dean for Diversity at 412-624-3506 or nam137@pitt.edu;
- the University's Office of Diversity and Inclusion at 412-648-7860 or <https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/make-report/report-form> (anonymous reporting form).

Disabilities:

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and [Disability Resources and Services](#), 140 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890 or 412-383-7355 (TTY) as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for specific courses.

Course website:

All readings and course material will be found on Courseweb and/or on the HUGEN Student Journal Club Website (<http://courseweb.pitt.edu>).

Textbooks:

There is no required textbook for this course.

Class Structure

All classes will start on time (1:30pm).

Before class officially starts at 1:30pm, we MAY spend approximately 5-10 minutes discussing "Genetics in the News".

Next a student will present a research article.

The presentation should be 35-40 minutes to allow 10 minutes for questions by the instructor, faculty, and students throughout the presentation.

The class will assess the presentation(s) and turn in the assessment at the end of class.

Evaluation/Grading:

Class attendance (1 pt each)	12
Participation and evaluation (1 pt each) + first day class	12
Document containing three "Genetics in the News" items (including a brief comment on each)	3
Curriculum Vita	1
Individualized Development Plan	<u>1</u>
Total	29

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Total Points</u>
A	27-29
A-	26
B+	25
B	24
B-	22-23
C+	21
C	20
C-	19
F	≤ 18

Agenda- Spring 2020 (Date/Presenter or Topic)

- 10 January •** Introduction + IDP/CV + Presentation Requirements
- 17 January •** TBD
- 24 January •** TBD
- 31 January •** Lindsey Spiker
- 07 February •** Tianyu Zou
- 14 February •** Laura Savariau
- 21 February •** Yulong Bai
- 28 February •** Talia Orenburg
- 06 March •** No Journal Club – Friday before Spring break
- 13 March •** No Journal Club - Spring Break
- 20 March •** Vaishali Muralidaran
- 27 March •** Discussion of IDP and CV
- 03 April 2018 •** Gillian Goobie
- 10 April 2018 •** TBD
- 17 April 2018 •** No Journal Club – Attend CC Li Lecture
- 24 April 2018 •** No Journal club – Finals' Week