

IB 299: Genetics Merit Discussion
Fall 2021, 2083 NHB, Thursday 3-4:50PM

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Office Hours: Monday 10-11a, Friday 12-1p,
2004 Natural History building; or Zoom by appointment

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The Merit Philosophy:

The goal of Merit is to help build critical thinking skills alongside course material. Discussions are not simply reviews from lecture but are designed using group-based learning activities. That is, your preparation and participation are key for class to run smoothly. A large part of how the Merit program will benefit you comes from how you interact with the class. You are expected to contribute your ideas and insights as well as your questions. Please use this opportunity to its greatest advantage.

Regarding the current circumstances revolving around COVID-19, I will do my best to keep discussions running smoothly. However, I ask that you please be flexible in case the current situation changes.

Merit Session Grades:

Each student may earn up to 10 points for their performance in each Merit session. The points will be assigned based on *Preparation, Participation, Attendance, and Respect* – 5 points from a combination of preparation and participation, and up to 5 points for attendance. There is no homework.

Attendance. Attendance is required. Points will be removed for being late. If you cannot make it to discussion/will arrive late, you should give at least 24 hours prior notice via email with a valid excuse (e.g. illness, emergency, etc.). There will be no make-up discussions.

- 0-5 minutes late: 0-1 points deducted from session grade
- 5-15 minutes late: 2 points deducted from session grade
- >15 minutes late: 5 points deducted from session grade
- >30 minutes late: All 10 points deducted from session grade
- Unexcused absence: All 10 points deducted from session grade

Preparation: Preparation includes having read through class material and familiar with key terms from lecture. It is extremely important that you come to Merit prepared so you can actively participate in the group discussions and activities.

Participation: The Merit section is designed to help you with critical thinking and enhance your verbal and communication skills. You will need to actively participate in the group activities every class. Participation will be evaluated by TA assessment. During activities, you will be talking to other members of your group and will equally participate in all the work your group produces.

COVID-19 Statement:

Students who feel ill must not come to class. In addition, students who test positive for COVID-19 or have had an exposure that requires testing and/or quarantine must not attend class. These students are judged to have excused absences for the class period and should contact the instructor via email about making up the work. Students who fail to abide by these rules will first be asked to comply; if they refuse, they will be required to leave the classroom immediately. If a student is asked to leave the classroom, the non-compliant student will be judged to have an unexcused absence and reported to the Office for Student Conflict Resolution for disciplinary action. Accumulation of non-compliance complaints against a student may result in dismissal from the University.

All students, faculty, staff, and visitors are required to **wear face coverings** in classrooms and university spaces. This is in accordance with CDC guidance and University policy and expected in this class.

If a student is not wearing a face covering in your class, ask them to put one on. If they refuse to put on a face covering, ask the student to leave. If the student refuses to leave, dismiss the class and report the student to the Office for Student Conflict Resolution for further discipline by filling out this form. Call UIPD, 217-333-1216, only if an individual becomes belligerent, disruptive, and threatening.

Instructional faculty members may ask students in the classroom to show their **Building Access Status** in the Safer Illinois app or the Boarding Pass. Staff members may ask students in university offices to show their Building Access Status in the Safer Illinois app or the Boarding Pass. If the Building Access Status says “Granted,” that means the individual is compliant with the university’s COVID-19 policies—either with a university-approved COVID-19 vaccine or with the on-campus COVID-19 testing program for unvaccinated students.

Students are required to show only the Building Access Screen, which shows compliance without specifying whether it was through COVID-19 vaccination or regular on-campus testing. To protect personal health information, this screen does not say if a person is vaccinated or not. Students are not required to show anyone the screen that displays their vaccination status. No university official, including faculty members, may ask students why they are not vaccinated or any other questions seeking personal health information.

Students must follow all COVID 19 University policies regarding face covering, vaccines, and testing.

Inclusivity Statement

The effectiveness of this course is dependent upon the creation of an encouraging and safe classroom environment. Exclusionary, offensive or harmful speech (such as racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, etc.) will not be tolerated and in some cases will be subject to university harassment procedures. We are all responsible for creating a positive and safe environment that allows all students equal respect and comfort. I expect each of you to help establish and maintain an environment where you and your peers can contribute without fear of ridicule or intolerant or offensive language.

Student Accommodations

Students with disabilities who require assistance to participate in this class must provide the instructor with the Letter for Academic accommodations drafted by the DRES staff. The instructor will assist with the provision of accommodations when reasonable and necessary. Follow this link to learn more about students accommodations and

DRES <https://www.disability.illinois.edu/academic-supports/accommodations/academic-accommodations>

To obtain disability-related academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the course instructor and the Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) as soon as possible. To contact DRES, you may visit 1207 S. Oak St., Champaign, call 333-4603, email disability@illinois.edu or go to the DRES website. If you are concerned you have a disability related condition that is impacting your academic progress, there are academic screening appointments available on campus that can help diagnosis a previously undiagnosed disability by visiting the DRES website and selecting “Sign-Up for an Academic Screening” at the bottom of the page. If you are interested in obtaining information to improve writing, study skills, time management or organization, the following campus resources are available to all students: Writer’s Workshop Undergrad Library 217-333-8796

Academic Integrity

It is the responsibility of each student to refrain from infractions of academic integrity, from conduct that may lead to suspicion of such infractions, and from conduct that aids others in such infractions. Follow this link to learn what behaviors are considered infractions to the academic integrity policies. <https://studentcode.illinois.edu/article1/part4/1-402/>

Emergency situation

Emergencies can happen anywhere and at any time, so it’s important that we take a minute to prepare for a situation in which our safety could depend on our ability to react quickly. Take a moment to learn the different ways to leave this building. If there’s ever a fire alarm or something like that, you’ll know how to get out and you’ll be able to help others get out. Next, figure out the best place to go in case of severe weather – we’ll need to go to a low-level in the middle of the building, away from windows. And finally, if there’s ever someone trying to hurt us, our best option is to run out of the building. If we cannot do that safely, we’ll want to hide somewhere we can’t be seen, and we’ll have to lock or barricade the door if possible and be as quiet as we can. We will not leave that safe area until we get an Illini-Alert confirming that it’s safe to do so. If we can’t run or hide, we’ll fight back with whatever we can get our hands on. If you want to better prepare yourself for any of these situations, visit police.illinois.edu/safe. Remember you can sign up for emergency text messages at emergency.illinois.edu.

Run > Hide > Fight

Emergencies can happen anywhere and at any time. It is important that we take a minute to prepare for a situation in which our safety or even our lives could depend on our ability to react quickly. When we're faced with almost any kind of emergency – like severe weather or if someone is trying to hurt you – we have three options: Run, hide or fight.



Run

Leaving the area quickly is the best option if it is safe to do so.

- › Take time now to learn the different ways to leave your building.
- › Leave personal items behind.
- › Assist those who need help, but consider whether doing so puts yourself at risk.
- › Alert authorities of the emergency when it is safe to do so.



Hide

When you can't or don't want to run, take shelter indoors.

- › Take time now to learn different ways to seek shelter in your building.
- › If severe weather is imminent, go to the nearest indoor storm refuge area.
- › If someone is trying to hurt you and you can't evacuate, get to a place where you can't be seen, lock or barricade your area if possible, silence your phone, don't make any noise and don't come out until you receive an Illini-Alert indicating it is safe to do so.



Fight

As a last resort, you may need to fight to increase your chances of survival.

- › Think about what kind of common items are in your area which you can use to defend yourself.
- › Team up with others to fight if the situation allows.
- › Mentally prepare yourself – you may be in a fight for your life.

Please be aware of people with disabilities who may need additional assistance in emergency situations.

Other resources

- › police.illinois.edu/safe for more information on how to prepare for emergencies, including how to run, hide or fight and building floor plans that can show you safe areas.
- › emergency.illinois.edu to sign up for Illini-Alert text messages.
- › Follow the University of Illinois Police Department on Twitter and Facebook to get regular updates about campus safety.