School of Systems Biology

10900 University Blvd., MS 5B3

Manassas, Virginia 20110

Course Syllabus for BINF 703

**Term:** Spring 2021

**Course:** Bioinformatics Lab Rotation

**Instructor(s):** Staff

**Contact:** [binf@gmu.edu](mailto:binf@gmu.edu)

**Office hours:** By appointment only

**Website:** <https://science.gmu.edu/academics/departments-units/systems-biology>

**Textbook:** None  
**Course Prerequisite(s):** Permission of Instructor

**Course Description:**

Short-term introductory research on a specific topic in bioinformatics and computational biology under direction of faculty member. Students read background material pertinent to problem under study, learn and practice research methods of laboratory, and formulate short final project, demonstrating summary of techniques and approaches employed.

May be repeated within the term for a maximum 3 credits.

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

* Perform basic research in a laboratory
* Demonstrate applications of acquired skills
* Conduct bioinformatic analyses
* Demonstrate proficiency and excellence in relevant computational concepts

**Course Grading**Grades will be based on lab attendance, computational analysis accuracy, and an independent final summary report using the Graduate Special grading scale. All assessments will be open book and notes. Each of these will contribute to your grade as follows.

**Grading Factors:**

* *Lab attendance 15%*
* *Computational analysis 35%*
* *Summary report 50%*

The university-wide system for grading graduate courses is as follows:

| **Grade** | **Quality Points** | **Graduate Courses** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| A+ | 4.00 | Satisfactory/Passing |
| A | 4.00 | Satisfactory/Passing |
| A- | 3.67 | Satisfactory/Passing |
| B+ | 3.33 | Satisfactory/Passing |
| B | 3.00 | Satisfactory/Passing |
| B- | 2.67 | Satisfactory1/Passing |
| C | 2.00 | Unsatisfactory/Passing |
| F | 0.00 | Unsatisfactory/Failing |
| Grading (Graduate) | | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | Although a B- is a satisfactory grade for a course, students must maintain a 3.00 average in their degree program and present a 3.00 GPA on the courses listed on the graduation application. |

**AP.3.2.1 Graduate Grading Scales**

Grading scales are indicated on each specific course. Scales are listed below and indicate possible grades which may be earned within each:

* Graduate Regular: allows for all grades listed above in AP.3.2 as well as IN, AB
* Graduate Special: allows for all grades listed above in AP.3.2 as well as IN, AB, S, NC, IP
* Satisfactory/No Credit: allows for S, NC, AB, IN, IP

Information about additional grade notations that apply to graduate students including “IN” Incomplete and “IP” In Progress as well as grading for undergraduate students may be found in the Academic Policies section of the catalog under [Grading System](https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/). Graduate students are not required to take midterm exams.

**Academic Integrity:**

The integrity of the University community is affected by the individual choices made by each of us. Mason has an Honor Code with clear guidelines regarding academic integrity. Three fundamental and rather simple principles to follow at all times are that: (1) all work submitted be your own; (2) when using the work or ideas of others, including fellow students, give full credit through accurate citations; and (3) if you are uncertain about the ground rules on a particular assignment, ask for clarification. No grade is important enough to justify academic misconduct. Plagiarism means using the exact words, opinions, or factual information from another person without giving the person credit. Writers give credit through accepted documentation styles, such as parenthetical citation, footnotes, or endnotes. Paraphrased material must also be cited, using MLA or APA format. A simple listing of books or articles is not sufficient. Plagiarism is the equivalent of intellectual robbery and cannot be tolerated in the academic setting. If you have any doubts about what constitutes plagiarism, please see me.

**Honor Code:**

* George Mason University has an Honor Code, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited
* All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee.
* See <http://oai.gmu.edu/honor-code/> for more detailed information.

**Enrollment:**

* Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this class.
* Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadline published on the Registrar’s website.
* Note the add/drop dates in the Academic Calendar published on the Registrar’s website.
* After the last day to drop a class, withdrawing from this class requires the approval of the dean and is only allowed for nonacademic reasons.

**Ethics:**  
Ethical behavior in the classroom is required of every student. The course will identify ethical policies and practices relevant to course topics.

**Technology:**

Students are expected to be competent in using current technology appropriate for this discipline. Such technology may include presentation software. Students are required to become familiar with Mason’s Responsible Use of Computing Policy #1301 <http://copyright.gmu.edu/?page_id=301>

**Students with Disabilities:**

Disability Services at George Mason University is committed to upholding the letter and spirit of the laws that ensure equal treatment of people with disabilities. Under the administration of University Life, Disability Services implements and coordinates reasonable accommodations and disability-related services that afford equal access to university programs and activities. Students can begin the registration process with Disability Services at any time during their enrollment at George Mason University. If you are seeking accommodations, please visit http://ds.gmu.edu/ for detailed information about the Disability Services registration process. Disability Services is located in Student Union Building I (SUB I), Suite 2500. Email:ods@gmu.edu | Phone: (703) 993-2474

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Resources.  All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.