About this class… We will focus on how one can use genetics to understand biological processes or structures. Along the way, we will look at patterns of inheritance (how inheritance works, how phenotype is determined by genes), mutant analysis, and genomics (what we can learn by studying whole genomes) particularly as applied to understanding human traits. The emphasis throughout will be on thinking, not on memorization.

Instructors
M. K. Raghuraman (aka “Raghu”)  
S051 Foege Bldg  
Phone: (206) 543-0334  
Email (preferred): raghu@uw.edu

Sam Cutler (Associate)  
Email: scutler2@uw.edu

Teaching Assistants
Lews Caro <lcaro96@uw.edu>  
Alison Greenlaw <acg24@uw.edu>  
Deanna Plubell <plubell@uw.edu>

Textbook not required
…but if you need a reference book, any standard genetics textbook will do. Examples include:


All of these texts will be on reserve in the Odegaard Undergraduate Library under this course listing.

Lectures & Quiz Sections
Lectures will be 12:30-2:20 MF, Foege S060 (Foege Auditorium). There will be a short break during each lecture—so each lecture is basically two back-to-back 50-minute periods. Quiz sections will be in Hitchcock 446.

Schedule

Grading
The final grade will be determined by three exams plus minitests, scheduled for the following dates:

Midterm Exams:
12:30-2:20 Fri Oct 18
12:30-2:20 Fri Nov 15

Final Exam:
8:30-10:20 Thu Dec 12.
Location TBA for all three exams.

Minitests:
Fri Oct 4
Fri Nov 1
Mon Nov 25

Exams. Each exam will count for one-quarter of your final grade. They are not designed to be
cumulative, but will end up being somewhat cumulative because the later material assumes that you know the earlier material. We will allow you to bring notes on one index card, but that really doesn’t mean much—if you don’t understand the material, having notes there won’t be much help.

**Minitest schedules.** There will be 3 minitests of ~30-40 minutes each. We’ll drop your lowest minitest score; the others together will together be worth one-quarter of your final grade.

The location for the exams will be announced in class and posted on the class web site.

**Conflict policy.** Our policy is to allow students to take exams a day or two early for only a few reasons:

- Medical/family emergencies. Visiting relatives on their birthday does not count!
- Academic events – e.g., interviewing for a job or medical/graduate school, or attending a conference to present research that was conducted at the University
- University-sponsored sporting events – the student must be part of a University sponsored team. University clubs do not count; if in doubt, check with the Athletics department.
- Religious accommodation: If the scheduled test/exam conflicts with religious observances, you may request accommodation to take the test/exam at an alternative time (see below). You do not need to disclose your particular faith or affiliation.

Airline reservations do not constitute a valid excuse. Exams may be taken early (given sufficient reason), but will NOT be given later than the scheduled date. If you do wish to take an exam early, and you have a valid reason, you must fill out and return the exam conflict form to Sam by Monday Sep 30. For religious accommodation, submit an online request at [https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/](https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/) by 5:00 pm Friday Oct 11.

If an exam is missed for medical or other emergencies, there will be NO opportunity to take a written make-up exam after the scheduled exam date. Instead, I may choose to give an oral exam in its place. Makeup minitests will not be offered. If you already know that you cannot meet the exam and minitest schedule, you should not take this class.

**Re-grades.** If you feel that an error was made in grading a test or exam, email Sam Cutler describing your issue within one week after the graded exams were returned to you. We will have scans of all tests/exams, so you don’t need to turn in your test/exam. In addition, if you wish to discuss your case, you can always make an appointment with me. I reserve the right to re-grade the entire exam, not just the isolated question in question.

**Code of conduct**

**Honesty is a highly valued principle in science.** In Genome 371 we strive to create an environment where individual achievement and honesty are rewarded. In this spirit, we expect that each student will do his or her own work on minitests and exams. During tests and exam we will circulate to answer your questions. If we observe behavior that does not meet our standards of honesty, we will take actions to remedy the situation during the exam. For these reasons, please keep your eyes on your own paper! We reserve the right to report any breach of conduct to the University Disciplinary Board. If they find that an infraction has occurred, the minitest or exam in question will be given a zero and in the case of a minitest, that zero may not be the dropped score. As a further deterrent to altering exams after they are graded, and as an aid for grading them rapidly, we keep scans of student papers. Please refer to the University’s Policy on Academic Honesty if you have further questions.

**Resources**

Make use of one-on-one help hours even if you don’t have specific questions—they are an opportunity for you to try out your thinking in a non-threatening environment and will help you integrate the concepts we cover in class. Think of the help hours as moderated group study.

Lectures will be recorded and be available as streamed video within a day or two. The videos are not meant to substitute for attending lectures. They are just intended to help you in case you missed some point in class. And sometimes the video recording fails for technical reasons, so don’t count on them as a substitute for class attendance!

There is an email group for the class (linked from the web site). Email that you send to the group will go to everyone in the class—so if you want to reply to just one person, make sure your reply isn’t going out to the whole class! If you are annoyed at the volume of email you receive, let me know and I’ll take your name off the list. I’ve also set up a discussion site on Canvas—incidentally, that is probably the only thing for which we’ll use Canvas in this class.