



BIOL6110

Genetics

Session 1, Online-scheduled-weekday 2022

School of Natural Sciences

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Administration

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MBiotech or GradDipBiotech or MConsBiol or GradDipConsBiol or GradCertConsBiol or MSc

Corequisites

Co-badged status

BIOL2110/BIOX2110

Unit description

Genetics occupies a central role in modern sciences, with profound implications for basic and applied research in biology, medicine and agriculture, as well as for a number of philosophical issues in human affairs. This unit offers a balanced approach to teach introductory principles of genetics. It combines sections on classical, molecular and population genetics presented in an integrative way. The practical sessions offer students the possibility of learning essential techniques and skills in modern molecular genetics.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: Describe how genetic processes apply to agriculture, human health, society, and

the environment

ULO2: Apply numeracy and basic principles of genetics to solve problems and draw conclusions from genetic data

ULO3: Describe routine techniques used to assay genetic variation in populations

ULO4: Demonstrate proficiency in the use of genetic research tools (pipettes, gel electrophoresis, sequence analysis)

ULO5: Analyse genetic data using some common population genetic software and bioinformatic tools

ULO6: Source, synthesise and critically evaluate information from the literature in written and oral formats

General Assessment Information

Submission Deadlines:

Online quizzes, in-class activities, or scheduled tests and exam must be undertaken at the time given. Should these activities be missed due to illness or misadventure, students may apply for Special Consideration.

Unless otherwise stated, all other assessments must be submitted by 5:00 pm on their due date. Should these assessments be missed due to illness or misadventure, students should apply for Special Consideration.

Assessments not submitted by the due date will receive a mark of zero unless late submissions are specifically allowed as indicated in here or on iLearn. If late submissions are permitted as indicated in the unit guide or on iLearn a consistent penalty will be applied for late submissions as follows:

- A 12-hour grace period will be given after which deductions will be applied to the awarded assessment mark;
- 12 to 24 hours late = 10% deduction;
- for each day thereafter, an additional 10% per day or part thereof will be applied until **five days** beyond the due date. After this time, a mark of zero (0) will be given.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Problem Sets</u>	5%	No	open weeks 3,4,6,8,9
<u>Practical Report</u>	25%	No	April 13
<u>Seminar Poster</u>	15%	No	May 4

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Test</u>	10%	No	May 12
<u>Final Exam</u>	45%	Yes	Exam Period

Problem Sets

Assessment Type ¹: Problem set

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **open weeks 3,4,6,8,9**

Weighting: **5%**

The problem sets are designed to assist you to understand topics covered in the course and to provide you with feedback on your understanding of those topics. It is essential that you complete the problem sets as the test and the final examination will cover similar topics to the problems. Answers to the problem sets will be provided. A good and reasonable attempt at each of the problem sets is required to obtain the full marks for each problem set (problems will not be individually graded).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply numeracy and basic principles of genetics to solve problems and draw conclusions from genetic data
- Analyse genetic data using some common population genetic software and bioinformatic tools

Practical Report

Assessment Type ¹: Report

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **April 13**

Weighting: **25%**

A major component of this unit is the preparation of a practical report. This practical report should be presented in the style of a scientific publication and describe the procedures and results from the first two practical sessions. It is recommended that you start drafting your report at the commencement of the first practical session. In these practical sessions you will learn essential skills, including: how to isolate DNA, visualize DNA using gel electrophoresis, perform PCR amplification, and sequence a mitochondrial gene. You will learn to identify unknown DNA samples by comparing their sequences with those available in DNA sequence databases. After this, you will align all the DNA sequences collected and build a phylogenetic tree as a

complementary method for species identification. Your report will include the activities undertaken within Practicals 1 and 2 within a scientific paper format, with Introduction, Methods, Results and Discussion.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Describe how genetic processes apply to agriculture, human health, society, and the environment
- Demonstrate proficiency in the use of genetic research tools (pipettes, gel electrophoresis, sequence analysis)
- Analyse genetic data using some common population genetic software and bioinformatic tools
- Source, synthesise and critically evaluate information from the literature in written and oral formats

Seminar Poster

Assessment Type ¹: Presentation

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **May 4**

Weighting: **15%**

You are required to design and present a 3-minute scientific conference poster (design as a powerpoint slide with recorded presentation) on **a topic in genetics** that you find exciting, based on a peer-reviewed scientific paper. The grade of your poster assessment will be based on content and presentation and involves peer evaluation.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Describe how genetic processes apply to agriculture, human health, society, and the environment
- Describe routine techniques used to assay genetic variation in populations
- Source, synthesise and critically evaluate information from the literature in written and oral formats

Test

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **May 12**

Weighting: **10%**

Your progress during the unit will be assessed with a test that will focus on topics covered during the lectures and practical sessions. This test will require application of genetic principles to solve problems and an ability to describe genetic processes and techniques.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Describe how genetic processes apply to agriculture, human health, society, and the environment
- Apply numeracy and basic principles of genetics to solve problems and draw conclusions from genetic data
- Describe routine techniques used to assay genetic variation in populations

Final Exam

Assessment Type ¹: Examination

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **Exam Period**

Weighting: **45%**

This is a hurdle assessment task (see [assessment policy](#) for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)

Students will be tested on their knowledge of course content. The exam will include information from lectures, practical classes and assessment tasks up to and including week 13. The date for your final exam will be available later in the semester.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Describe how genetic processes apply to agriculture, human health, society, and the environment
- Apply numeracy and basic principles of genetics to solve problems and draw conclusions from genetic data
- Describe routine techniques used to assay genetic variation in populations

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this

type of assessment

- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

Lecture Schedule

This unit has two online lectures per week. Lectures will all be available each week online under the Echo360 link.

<u>Lecture</u>	<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1	1	Unit Introduction and Basic Revision
2	1	Basic Revision 2: Sex and Reproduction
3	2	Mendelian Genetics
4	2	Sex Determination Patterns of Inheritance
5	3	Allelic variation and gene function
6	3	Linkage and Crossing Over
Mid-Semester Recess (April 11-24)		
7	4	Chromosome Number and Structure
8	4	DNA Replication and Synthesis
9	5	Transcription and Translation
10	5	Gene Expression, Mutation and DNA Repair
11	6	Molecular Techniques I
12	6	Molecular Techniques II
13	7	Population Genetics
14	7	Inbreeding and Inbreeding Depression
15	8	Epigenetics
16	8	Evolutionary Genetics
17	9	Quantitative Genetics
18	9	Conservation Genetics
19	10	Genetic Response to Change
20	10	Human Genetics
21	11	Technological Advances and Applications

22	11	Revision 1
23	12	Revision 2

Online Practical Schedule

Online practical sessions are scheduled for Wednesdays 2-5pm. This time-slot is allocated for self-directed learning. A zoom session will be held during each practical session - see iLearn for more details.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Practical/Tutorial</u>
1	23 Feb	NO PRACTICAL/TUTORIAL
2	9 March	1: DNA Extraction **
3	10 March	2: Gel electrophoresis and PCR**
4	16 March	3: DNA Sequence Alignment and Data Analysis
5	23 March	4: Hardy-Weinberg Equilibrium – single locus
6	30 March	5: Hardy-Weinberg Equilibrium – population level
7	6 April	6: Linkage Disequilibrium
Mid Semester Break		
8	27 April	7: Data Quality in Genomics
9	4 May	8 Problem solving and test preparation
10	12 May	9: Online Test (Thursday)
11	18 May	10: Test answers and exam revision
12	25 May	NO PRACTICAL/TUTORIAL

** Online practical materials combined

Unit Schedule

COVID information and On-Campus classes

On-campus teaching continues to be scheduled for Session 1, 2022. Masks are compulsory for all classes in indoor spaces and social distancing will be implemented wherever possible. Students will also be required to sanitise surfaces before and after use.

Students are requested to minimise the risk of spreading COVID to themselves and others in accordance with the university and NSW Health guidelines: <https://www.mq.edu.au/about/corona-virus-faqs> and <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/stay-safe>.

Any further requirements or changes to units in relation to COVID will be communicated to

students via iLearn.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

The Writing Centre

The Writing Centre provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via [AskMQ](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.