

# Biology 352: GENETICS AND EVOLUTION

*Spring 2007*

Tuesday, Thursday West Commons 220 11:00-12:15

## Class Syllabus

<b><u>Instructors:</u></b>	<b><u>Office, phone</u></b>	<b><u>Email</u></b>	<b><u>Office hours 12:30-1:30 PM</u></b>
Dr. Ted Townsend	LS 271, 594-1081	<a href="mailto:ttownsend@projects.sdsu.edu">ttownsend@projects.sdsu.edu</a>	Tues, Thurs 1/18 to 4/3
Dr. Annalisa Berta	LS 250, 594-5392	<a href="mailto:aberta@sciences.sdsu.edu">aberta@sciences.sdsu.edu</a>	Tues, Thurs 4/5 to 5/16

### **Organization**

Biology 352 is divided into three 5-week sections: transmission genetics, population genetics and evolution. A faculty member with the appropriate expertise will teach each section. Dr. Townsend will teach the first and second parts, and Dr. Berta will teach the third.

### **Texts**

1) Pierce, B.A. 2006. Transmission and population genetics: a short course. Freeman.

OR

Pierce, B.A. 2005. Genetics: a conceptual approach. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Freeman.

Note: “Transmission and population genetics ...” is a custom version of “a conceptual approach” that W.H. Freeman Publishers have generously prepared for me, to minimize your textbook expenses. The SDSU bookstore has “Transmission and population genetics ...”, which contains Chapters 1-9 and 22-23 from the full version of the book. Because the customized version contains fewer pages and is softcover, it is less expensive than the full version of the text. You may certainly purchase the full version of the “conceptual approach” textbook if you like.

There are a few pages in Chapters 10-21 that are required, but not included in “Transmission and population genetics”. The publisher has provided pdf files for these sections, which are available on Blackboard.

2) Stearns, S.C. and Hoekstra, R. F. 2005. Evolution: an introduction. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Oxford.

It is important that you get the 2005 edition of this text.

A limited number of copies of the two textbooks will be on reserve in the library.

Population genetics (weeks 6-10) is covered only adequately in Pierce. Some students in past semesters have requested additional help and practice problems for this section of the course. I would recommend the following book:

Ayala, F. J. 1982. Population and evolutionary genetics: a primer. Benjamin/Cummings, Menlo Park, CA. Although this book is now out of print, there is a copy on reserve in the library. You may also be able to find a used copy through Amazon or a similar source for less than \$10.

### **Prerequisites**

Biology 201A, 201B and 215 are necessary and required. Another statistics course may be substituted for Bio 215: consult with Dr. Townsend.

We welcome all students who have fulfilled the three prerequisites to Biology 352. If you are a Biology major (and not enrolled as a “Premajor”) then you should have these. Students that are enrolled for the course but do not have the appropriate prerequisites will be dropped by the instructors. If there is any confusion on these matters, please consult with Dr. Townsend.

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### **Crashing**

We will take crashers if there are available seats. If you are not registered at this time, you may obtain an add code in the following ways:

- 1) A verification form may be obtained from the Biology advising office in LS 135.
  - a) Print out your degree evaluation from the internet, and bring the page that shows your "prep for the major" courses to LS135. (Or, you may bring a transcript from e-portal showing those courses.)
  - a) The advising office will verify that you have the necessary prerequisites and give you a verification form. Bring this form to Dr. Townsend during office hours.
  - a) We will not accept crashers after the first quiz (week 2 or 3), so talk to Dr. Townsend as soon as possible.
- 2) You may bring an unofficial copy of your transcripts to Dr. Townsend during office hours, instead of obtaining a verification form.

### **Dropping Biology 352**

After the first three weeks of the semester (exact date in the class schedule handbook) it is very difficult to drop any course at SDSU. All requests after that date are reviewed by the University's registrar office or an assistant Dean, not by the instructors of the course. Unless you have a well-documented medical problem or personal problem (e.g., death in the immediate family), your request will probably be denied.

### **Cell phones**

The use of cell phones in any way (including text messaging) is distracting to other students and the instructor. TURN OFF CELL PHONES prior to lecture. The use of all electronic devices except calculators is strictly prohibited during quizzes and exams. This includes cell phones and PDAs. Put a calculator in your backpack and leave it there, so you will have it for quizzes and exams.

### **Class web site**

A web site (<http://www.sci.sdsu.edu/classes/bio352/>) will be use to disseminate class information for the first two weeks of the class, including general lecture outlines. Beginning with week 3, all class material will be posted on Blackboard (<https://blackboard.sdsu.edu>). This will include outlines, exam scores and keys to practice problems, quizzes and exams. The lecture outlines will be available prior to each lecture for you to print and bring with you. The web site is likely to be updated at least weekly.

The lecture material provided on the web site will be outlines and some figures, rather than a complete set of notes. We emphasize that these outlines do not take the place of lecture notes and they DEFINITELY do not take the place of coming to class. You are expected to attend class and take your own lecture notes.

We expect you to print out materials from Blackboard BEFORE a given lecture, and that you BRING them to class. The pace of the lecture assumes that you have these materials with you in class so that you need not write down information already available from Blackboard.

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### Grading

The course is divided into three sections. Each section will be concluded with a midterm exam (100 points) over that section's material. The final will not be comprehensive; it will cover the last third of the course only. You can also expect 2 quizzes (20 points each) during each section. Quizzes will be announced in lecture, one lecture before the quiz is to be given. Make-up quizzes and exams will not be given for traffic delays, so plan accordingly.

The total points at the end of the course will be curved. Therefore, grading scales will vary from exam to exam. Without exception, students receiving less than 50% of the total points will be given a grade of F for the semester in all cases.

Exams and quizzes will primarily be multiple-choice. The instructors may present some short answer questions and problems on exams and quizzes.

**For quiz #1, you will be expected to bring to class a LARGE red ParSCORE form F-288-ERI-L.** (Note that the exact number on these forms may have changed this semester.)

**For all other quizzes and exams, you will be expected to bring to class a SMALL red ParSCORE form F-289-PAR-L.** (Note that the exact number on these forms may have changed this semester.)

**You will not be able to take quizzes or exams without a ParSCORE form and a pencil!**

\* \* The final is already scheduled for **May 10**. Do not schedule personal travel during the final. \* \*

### Make up quizzes and exams

We will accommodate students who cannot take quizzes or exams, provided there is an unavoidable conflict or illness, and the student has given the instructor prior notice. Decisions for administering a make up exam or quiz will be made on an individual basis, with the following guidelines:

1. Prior notice must be given to the instructor if at all possible.
2. If last-minute severe illness or exceptional personal problems prevent a student from taking a quiz or an exam, the instructor should be notified by email (preferable) or phone as soon as possible, and definitely before class. Documentation may be requested.
3. Make-ups will not be given for traffic delays, work-related conflicts or personal out-of-town travel.
4. Make-up quizzes and exams will be different than those given in lecture. The format of a make-up will be short answer, essay, or some combination of these, rather than multiple choice.
5. Unavoidable conflicts with major sporting events for student-athletes, or academic activities should be kept to a minimum and documented by the appropriate university office. Documentation should be presented to the instructor during the first two weeks of class.
6. Events that require prolonged absence (more than three lectures) should be discussed with the instructor and the Biology undergraduate advisor in LS 134.

### Posting grades

All grades will be posted on the Blackboard web site as soon as they are available.

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### Calculators

Calculators may be permitted on some exams and quizzes, but you must use only your own. Read the following carefully:

1. **Bring your own calculator every time.** You may not borrow a calculator from another student during an exam or quiz.
2. **Only simple non-programmable calculators are acceptable.** Calculations will involve square roots, exponents and scientific notation ... but nothing more difficult than that.
3. If you do not own an appropriate calculator, buy or borrow one before the first quiz.  
**Programmable calculators, PDAs, cell phones, etc. will not be permitted.**

### Academic dishonesty

We have a zero-tolerance policy for cheating of any sort. If you are caught cheating on an exam or quiz you will receive a grade of zero on that exercise. The incident will be reported to the campus judicial officer and may lead to your suspension or expulsion from the University.

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### I need to get a good grade in this class !!!

We want everyone to get a good grade in Genetics and Evolution. But inevitably, not everyone does as well as they should. Having taught this course for many years, we know that many students who earn less than a B in Biology 352 have the following comments:

1. I have seen a lot of these concepts in previous courses, so I thought it would be easy. Biology 352 goes far beyond the brief introduction you had to Punnet squares, Hardy Weinberg equilibrium, natural selection and evolution in introductory courses. The topics all *seem* familiar and make sense during lecture. So many students do not study as much as they would for a course in which everything is brand new. This is a huge mistake. Some students get 16 or 18 out of 20 on the first quiz, and then stop studying as much. They get 12/20 on the next quiz a few weeks later, and 60/100 on the first major exam. At that point, the course is one-third over and you already have a D. Stay on top of your studying every week, because the course continually gets more difficult.
2. I didn't put enough time into studying for this course. Most students are carrying a full load, with several other upper division courses. Nonetheless, read the text before every lecture and review your notes after every lecture. Do not fall behind! The topics in this course will continue to build on one another, lecture after lecture throughout the semester. Almost every lecture assumes that you remember and understand everything up to that point. If you fall behind after a few weeks, you will have a very difficult time recovering later.
3. I study and study but I just don't get it! **You cannot pass Genetics and Evolution by simply memorizing facts.** This is a course that requires quantitative reasoning and problem solving. It requires you to apply principles from lecture to a brand new situation on the exam. You will be tested on your ability to integrate different concepts and decide what the results of a particular experiment would look like – or determine whether natural selection or random drift would be more important in a real life situation. This requires a deeper level of understanding than simple memorization. Study in small groups. For students who have difficulty integrating these concepts, group study seems to help. To explain a difficult concept to one of your peers, you need to *really* understand it yourself.

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4. I don't understand math. Genetics and Evolution requires some quantitative reasoning. There is no way around this. However, there is far less math in this course than in a high school algebra class, and it requires only a few statistical concepts from Bio 215 (Statistics).
5. The tests are tricky. Frankly, we do not like multiple choice tests, but this is what we are stuck with in a course with 150 students and limited support in helping to grade exams. We do our best to make sure that every question has one and only one correct answer.

Every quiz or exam will have a mixture of some simple definitions, some straightforward calculations or breeding experiments, and some more complicated scenarios that require you to apply concepts to brand new situations. Two suggestions:

- a. Take advantage of all the practice quizzes and exams provided on Blackboard. This will show you the style of questions we are likely to ask, and the level of understanding that is required. Take the practice exams "cold". Pretend it is a real exam, take it in one sitting, and do not refer to your notes. In my experience, performance on the practice exams is a very good predictor of performance on the actual exam.
- b. If you know the right answer, do not talk yourself out of it! This is a common problem. Some students perform better if they decide what the correct answer is before looking at the answers provided. *Then* search through the list of possible answers for the correct one.