

**Professor:**

Kathleen Hill

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WSC 333

[khill22@uwo.ca](mailto:khill22@uwo.ca)**Class day/time/location:** TBA**Perspectives on Genetic Variation: Biology Graduate Course**

*Perspectives on Genetics* (Edited by Crow and Dove 2000) is a fabulous text with anecdotal, historical and critical commentaries written from 1987 to 1998. I think it would be very interesting to see what we as a class might achieve if we were invited by an Editor to produce a collection of “*Perspectives*” articles on current topics in Genetic Variation. Also, “*Perspectives*” articles are published in each issue of the journal *Science* and are a great source of current thinking on hot topics. In this course, we will start off with a “Journal Club” where we will select a collection of papers that we would like to read and discuss on the topic of Genetic Variation. I have a couple of classic and recent papers I would like to share with you and I am looking forward the ‘hot topic’ papers that you will find and discuss. Each of you will chose a key primary research paper published in 2011 that you feel is worthy of a journal club presentation and another that is ideal for your *Perspectives* article and oral presentaiton. You will submit your *Perspectives* article to our collection and deliver a seminar on the topic.

**Overview: There are several components to this course**

1. Journal club small group presentation
2. Individual student term paper: Every student will prepare a *Perspectives* article.
3. Individual student seminar: Every student will prepare and present one seminar.
4. In Class participation in Q&A and Discussions

**Evaluation**

- |    |                                   |                            |
|----|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. | Journal Club presentation         | 10 marks (end of October)  |
| 2. | Term Paper: Perspectives article  | 35 marks (end of semester) |
| 2. | Seminar                           | 35 marks (end of November) |
| 3. | In Class Discussion/Participation | 20 marks (end of November) |

The following **penalties** will be enforced:

*If you do not hand in the term paper on time: 1% of the final mark is deducted per day until the assignment is handed in. Term papers are due by 4 p.m. December 5th, 2011 and are to be submitted to Dr. Hill [office WSC Room 333].*

**INFORMATION FOR ASSIGNMENTS**

*Science Perspectives* (up to 1000 words plus 1 figure) highlight recent exciting research, but do not primarily discuss the author's own work. They may provide context for the findings within a field or explain potential interdisciplinary significance. Perspectives commenting on papers in *Science* should add a dimension to the research and not merely be a summary of the experiments completed in the paper. These articles are meant to express a personal viewpoint. Attached to this course outline is a recent sample of a *Perspectives* style article on a topic relevant to the course topic. Visual material presented must be of a quality that allows clear and easy interpretation. Origins of Figures and Tables must be clearly credited if not original. The copying of Figure Legends is not acceptable: the text you present should clearly explain details of figures as required for your paper. Grammar, spelling and overall appearance are an integral and evaluated part of this written assignment. The *Perspectives* article is to be typed using double-spacing, 12 pt. Times New Roman font and 1" margins. Word count cannot be exceeded. References are limited to 20 as a maximum and the style is to be that of the *American Journal of Human Genetics* [the title is included].

**Perspective article deadline: Dec 5th, 2011 submitted before 4pm to Dr Hill's office Rm 329 WSC**

### Graduate Student Journal Meetings and Seminars

One week prior to your journal club presentation email Dr Hill the pdf file of the selected article that your group of 2 to 3 students will present. The class will then have the opportunity to review the article and prepare for the Q&A and Discussion. Your presentation should outline the rationale, purpose, novelty, key advance and added knowledge of the primary research paper. Your presentation should clearly outline the experiments and findings. Your presentation should also focus on a critique of the paper. Aim for a 20 min presentation that we will follow up with Q&A and Discussion by all.

One week prior to your individual seminar please email Dr Hill the pdf file of a primary research paper that is the focus of your seminar topic along with the seminar title and a one paragraph description of your seminar topic. This material will be read and reviewed by the class in preparation for your seminar presentation and discussion session. The Seminar presentation should be 30 minutes and will be followed with a question/answer and discussion session. The Seminar should have the flavour of an oral presentation of a *Perspectives* article.

The journal club articles are different from the perspectives article and seminar presentation. The topic of the seminar and perspectives article can be the same. **All topics are to be discussed and reserved with Dr Hill in advance to ensure that no duplicate presentations are made over the semester. All literature selected must be primary research articles from high impact journals and published in 2011.**

**Plagiarism:** Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar). Plagiarism Checking: The University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form for plagiarism checking.

### Schedule

**Sept** What is this course about? What do we want to learn about Genetic Variation?  
**Sept** Introduction – Course outline; assignments; marking scheme, deadlines  
**Oct** Weekly Journal Club meetings [schedule to be posted]  
**Nov** Weekly Seminar meetings [schedule to be poster]  
**Dec 5th** Perspectives Article due (**4 pm deadline**)

### Statement on Academic Offences

“Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_grad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf) Academic Handbook, Exam, Course Outlines Page 4 Issued: 2011 02

“All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism-detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).”