

# Course Syllabus

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## IB 35 AC: Human Biological Variation

FALL 2018

Lecture is held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2-3:30pm in Li Ka Shing Room 245.

Discussion sections are held on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday.

Discussion sections meet in Valley Life Sciences Bldg. Room 1007.

### Faculty Instructor:

**Professor Leslea J. Hlusko** (<http://www.lesleahlusko.org/>), Department of Integrative Biology

Office: 5085 Valley Life Sciences Building

Office Hours: 8:30am-10:30am Wednesday, or by appointment

### Graduate Student Instructors:

**Marianne Brasil**, Integrative Biology

Office Hours: 10am-11am Tuesday

**Giovanna Figueroa**, Integrative Biology

Office Hours: 10am-11am Thursday

**Catherine Taylor**, Integrative Biology

Office Hours: 1pm-2pm Wednesday

**Cynthia Wang-Claypool**, Integrative Biology

Office Hours: 9am-10am Wednesday

**Ryan Yohler**, Integrative Biology

Office Hours: 12pm-1pm Friday

**Course email address:** [ib35ac@berkeley.edu](mailto:ib35ac@berkeley.edu)

**Course Description:** This course addresses modern human biological variation from historical, comparative, evolutionary, biomedical, and cultural perspectives. It is designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of comparative biology, evolutionary theory, and genetics.

**Prerequisites:** There are no prerequisites for this course. All majors are welcome.

**Course Format:** This is a 4-unit lecture course with discussion section. Lectures will be held twice a week for a total of 3 hours, and students will participate in the one-hour discussion section each week in which they are enrolled.

**Grading:** Performance will be based on a total of 400 possible points earned as follows:

5 quizzes*, 20 points each	100 points
10 spot assignments**, 5 points each	50 points
Discussion sections, 100 points total	100 points
Wikipedia project, 50 points total	50 points
Final paper, 100 points total	100 points

*\*all quizzes will be administered through bCourses. There will be a 48-hour time window during which you will have 3 hours to take the quiz once you start it. Dates are noted on the syllabus. There will be 6 quizzes given; your best 5 scores out of 6 will be counted towards your final grade. Your lowest score will be dropped*

B+	< 90.0%	to 87.0%
B	< 87.0%	to 84.0%
B-	< 84.0%	to 80.0%
C+	< 80.0%	to 77.0%
C	< 77.0%	to 74.0%
C-	< 74.0%	to 70.0%
D+	< 70.0%	to 67.0%
D	< 67.0%	to 64.0%
D-	< 64.0%	to 61.0%
F	< 61.0%	to 0.0%

**The student community at UC Berkeley has adopted the following Honor Code:**

*“As a member of the UC Berkeley community, I act with honesty, integrity, and respect for others.”*

The expectation is that you will adhere to this code, as your instructors pledge to do as well. For more information, please visit this website: <http://asuc.org/honorcode/index.php> (<http://asuc.org/honorcode/index.php>)

**Policy on UC Berkeley’s Code of Student Conduct:** All students are expected to follow the University of California at Berkeley’s Campus Code of Student Conduct, as is published at <http://sa.berkeley.edu/code-of-conduct> (<http://sa.berkeley.edu/code-of-conduct>). Cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated (102.01).

**Policy on plagiarism:** In academia ideas are our commodity. Taking direct text, ideas, data, or results from someone else’s work without properly giving credit is essentially stealing. Representing them as your own is unethical and disrespectful. This is unacceptable in a university and we take it very seriously here at UC Berkeley. We will pursue disciplinary action against students who plagiarize in this class. If you are unfamiliar with plagiarism, please see the tutorial on the Biosciences Library website about citations generally (<https://guides.lib.berkeley.edu/c.php?g=444859&p=3081992> (<https://guides.lib.berkeley.edu/c.php?g=444859&p=3081992>)) and this resource on plagiarism specifically (<https://libguides.mit.edu/citing#plagiarism>).

**Required texts:** *Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, by Rebecca Skloot ISBN 978-1-4000-5218-9

**Course website:** There is a website for the course available to enrolled students through bCourses at <https://bcourses.berkeley.edu/>. Abbreviated class slides will be posted by 8pm the night before each class meeting. Reading assignments and required readings outside of the required texts will be posted on bCourses (each lecture has its own "page" with this information). Important announcements related to the course will be posted on the bCourses site. It is your responsibility to check this site. You can sign up to receive announcements by email or get in the habit of checking the site regularly.

**Email policy:** In order to keep class queries a priority, we have established a class-specific email address. The instructors will respond to emails within 24 hours from receipt from 8am on Monday through 5pm on Friday (Friday emails will receive a reply on Monday). Although email is available to you 24 hours a day 7 days a week, we, unfortunately, cannot be. Please keep this in mind and plan ahead as much as possible.

All email related to the class must go through the [IB35AC@BERKELEY.EDU](mailto:IB35AC@BERKELEY.EDU) (<mailto:IB35AC@BERKELEY.EDU>) address. Given the vast amount of research and administrative-related email correspondence that your instructors face on a daily basis, WE CANNOT GUARANTEE A TIMELY REPLY IF YOU EMAIL PROF. HLUKO OR THE GSIs DIRECTLY.

Please keep in mind that any of the GSIs and/or Prof. Hlusko can all read email sent to [ib35ac@berkeley.edu](mailto:ib35ac@berkeley.edu)

penalty, at a time when that activity would not violate the student's religious creed, unless administering the examination at an alternative time would impose an undue hardship which could not reasonably have been avoided.

All deadlines and exam dates are noted on this syllabus. We have tried to avoid all major religious holidays, but given how diverse Berkeley's community is, we may have unintentionally missed a date that is important to you. It is your responsibility to note any conflicts with exams and due dates and let the instructor or GSIs know. We are happy to figure out an accommodation that will work. If you have other scheduling conflicts, please see the guidelines at: [http://academic-senate.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/recommendations-reports/guidelines\\_acadschedconflicts\\_july2006.pdf](http://academic-senate.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/recommendations-reports/guidelines_acadschedconflicts_july2006.pdf) ([http://academic-senate.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/recommendations-reports/guidelines\\_acadschedconflicts\\_july2006.pdf](http://academic-senate.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/recommendations-reports/guidelines_acadschedconflicts_july2006.pdf)).

**Policy on make-ups:** We will not administer make-up quizzes or other assignments. There are 6 quizzes and only 5 will count towards your final grade. Your lowest score will be dropped. This policy is designed to easily absorb the unexpected illnesses or other events that may stand in your way of taking one of the quizzes. Because you may need to miss a quiz unexpectedly, do not just "take a break" and miss one of the quizzes intentionally.

**Policy on turning in assignments late:** Only a documented illness or some other unforeseeable emergency will allow us to grant you a later due date than what is posted on this syllabus for any of the assignments. Anticipated events do not count as acceptable reasons for turning in assignments late (even if it is a University-approved one), as you can and should plan ahead and turn in assignments early.

**Policy on attendance for lecture:** We do not enforce attendance, but remind you that 50 points of your final grade will derive from unannounced in-lecture activities ("spot assignments"). In addition, quiz content will primarily derive from lectures and discussion sections. The reading material is additional information that supplements but does not repeat what is presented in class. You are responsible for both. It is *strongly* recommended that you do not skip lecture.

**Policy on attendance for discussion section:** Again, we do not enforce attendance. However, there will be an activity in each section worth 10 points of your final grade. There are 11 formal discussion section meetings. We will only count your 10 best scores. Your lowest section score will be dropped, for a maximum total discussion section score of 100. Another way to think of it is that each section meeting is worth about 2.5% of your final grade outside of the pedagogical value. Material presented in section will be included on the quizzes. It is *strongly* recommended that you do not skip your discussion section.

Keep in mind that the Wikipedia project is ultimately worth more than 20% of your grade and involves a considerable amount of effort and planning during discussion section. Attendance is especially essential during those weeks.

**Policy on laptop use in class:** Laptops and other electronic devices are not to be used in lecture or in discussion sections. Research repeatedly shows that multi-tasking is detrimental to the cognitive work required in college. For an overview of this research, see: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/wp/2014/09/25/why-a-leading-professor-of-new-media-just-banned-technology-use-in-class/> (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/wp/2014/09/25/why-a-leading-professor-of-new-media-just-banned-technology-use-in-class/>). Disengage from the virtual world for the short amount of time that you are in the IB35ac environment.

That said, there are some instances when students have strong reasons to use their laptops in class. If you are in that situation, please let us know. We ask that laptop users cluster in the front left of the lecture hall (to Prof. Hlusko's right, your left).

**Policy on cell phones:** All cell phones need to be silenced during class. We understand that there may be occasional situations in which you need to receive or send an emergency text, but keep in mind that excessive texting or other use of your phones is distracting to other people in the class. If your cell phone activity becomes disruptive, you will be asked to leave the class.

**Policy on students with learning disabilities:** In order to adequately accommodate students with learning disabilities that require additional services, we need to know who you are and what your needs are by **September 15<sup>th</sup>**. If you delay processing your paperwork, it becomes increasingly difficult to accommodate you for the semester. Please do not hesitate about finalizing and confirming your accommodations. Help us help you.

**Policy on emergency and traumatic situations:** In a class this size, every year a handful of students experience some type of traumatic life event. If you are one of these unfortunate students this year, please know that the University is here for you. Your classwork comes second when you are experiencing trauma. If you find yourself in this situation, an important first place to turn is the Counseling and Psychological Services program (<https://uhs.berkeley.edu/counseling>). There are numerous options for how to accommodate the academic side of your life when you are confronting trauma, but we can only make this happen if we know that you are in an emergency situation. Please do not hesitate to reach out for assistance. We are here to help you get the help you need to get well and/or stay healthy, and to make sure you can finish the course when you are in a better situation and can do so meaningfully.