

Hi Class.

Here is an update on how we will complete BIOC 408.

1. The remaining content on DNA methylation and Environment -Epigenome interactions will be taught through REVISED PDFs and accompanied audio recordings or notes. These materials will be posted on CourseSpaces early next week and I'll alert you when they go up. The objective here is to learn only the take home messages on the topics so that you can be prepared to discuss this exciting area of biology with colleagues and peers.

2. The scheduled group presentations will be submitted (in PDF format) for grading, but there will be no opportunity to actually present to your peers. Instead your score, worth 15% of the course grade, will be determined by two equally weighted components:

- The quality of the PowerPoint style presentation. This grade will be common to all group members, and the same criteria you have received regarding presentation evaluation will be used, where possible.

-The quality of your part of the presentation, which will take the form of a type-written 'script' that clearly outlines what you WOULD say for your set of slides if you were presenting. This is a running transcript of your talk.

*** Please note: there is no need or expectation for groups to meet face-to-face. Virtual meetings and discussions are suggested alternatives to complete your work.**

****ALL GROUPS will have the same due date of APRIL 1st at 8:30 am to submit a PDF copy of your presentation and your transcript. This ensures everyone has the same amount of time to complete this revised assignment. Please email these to both Dr. Ausio and I before the deadline.**

3. The final exam will also be completed electronically. More details to follow, but for now expect this to be written at the scheduled time (**Tues April 7 at 2PM PST**). There is a chance this could change, but my goal is to keep the timing the same.

4. Class participation marks will be determined by the existing notes/data Dr. Ausio and I have made during group discussion assignments and in class sessions.

5. My office hours will now also be online. For the moment I will be at my computer answering emails on Wednesdays from 1pm to 3pm.

Finally, if there are impediments for you with the above plan, please email me and I we can try our best to come up with a solution. I don't want to exclude participation from anyone. Thank you for your understanding in this situation. While there are many uncertainties with the COVID-19 pandemic, my position is that it is safer and responsible to err on the side of caution.

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