CS 3824: Introduction to Computational Biology and Bioinformatics
Syllabus
Spring, 2010

1 General Course Information

CRN	17086
MEETING TIME	9:30 AM–10:45 AM; Tuesday/Thursday
CLASSROOM	McBryde 231
MIDTERM EXAM	In class, March 4, 2010
FINAL EXAM	3:25 PM–5:25 PM, May 8, 2010

Instructor: Lenwood S. Heath

- **Office:** 2160J Torgersen Hall

- **Office Hours:** 11–12:30 Tuesdays and Thursdays

- **Email:** heath@vt.edu

Web Site: http://courses.cs.vt.edu/cs3824/Spring2010/index.php

Class Listserv: CS3824_17086@listserv.vt.edu

Prerequisites: CS 3114

Required Textbook: An Introduction to Bioinformatics Algorithms. Neil C. Jones and Pavel A. Pevzner. The MIT Press, 2004. ISBN: 978-0-262-10106-6.

Books On Reserve: For current list, see class web site.

2   Course Description

This course introduces computational biology and bioinformatics (CBB) through hands-on learning experiences. The emphasis is on problem solving in CBB, especially through algorithms. The breadth of topics covered include a subset of the following: structural bioinformatics; modeling and simulation of biological networks; computational sequence analysis; algorithms for reconstructing phylogenies; computational systems biology; and data mining algorithms.

3   Grading Policy

Grading for the course is on a 1000-point scale, with the points distributed as follows:

Homework assignments: 6 at 50 points each	300
Course project:	300
Midterm exam: March 4, 2010	150
Final exam: May 8, 2010	250

All homework must be prepared with LaTeX[1] or other word processing system, printed, and submitted by 4:00 EST on the due date[2]. Use of LaTeX is **strongly** recommended, though not absolutely required. **No late homework will be accepted.**

4   Readings

For most classes, there is a reading assignment to be completed by class time. See the course web site about one week prior to the class date.

5   Ethics

The Honor Code applies. All work submitted must be the student's own work. A student may solicit help with homework assignments only from the instructor. A student must complete the midterm and final exams without any outside help of any kind. However, the course project is done in a collaborative fashion that does allow students to work as a team.

6   Announcement

If any student needs special accommodations because of a disability, please contact the instructor during the first week of classes.

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[1]See LaTeX resources on the course web site.

[2]See due dates on the Calendar on the course web site.