BIOL4536401, Introduction to Computational Biology & Biological Modeling, Fall, 2023 — Grant, Gregory R

Term	**Fall, 2023 (202330)**	Enrollment	**57**	School	**School of Arts & Sciences**
Activity Type	**LEC**	Eligible	**57**	Division	**-**
Cross Listed Sections	**BIOL5535401, CIS4360401**	Responses	**49**	Department	**Biology**
		Response Rate	**86%**	Subject	**Biology**

		Average Ratings			This Instructor Only Worst Rating...Best Rating					Responses
	Question and Scale	Instructor	Section	Course	-	0	1	2	3	4	
1	**Overall quality of the instructor.** *Scale: 0 to 4: Poor, Fair, Good, Very good, Excellent*	3.16	2.79	2.79	-	0% 0	2% 1	22% 10	33% 15	42% 19	45
2	**Overall quality of the course.** *Scale: 0 to 4: Poor, Fair, Good, Very good, Excellent*	2.96	2.96	2.96	-	0% 0	2% 1	27% 12	44% 20	27% 12	45
3	**Overall quality of the TA(s) if applicable.** *Scale: 0 to 4: Poor, Fair, Good, Very good, Excellent, N/A,*	3.44	3.44	3.44	-	0% 0	3% 1	5% 2	38% 15	54% 21	39
4	**The instructor clearly communicated the subject matter.** *Scale: 0 to 4: Strongly disagree, Disagree, Neither agree nor disagree, Agree, Strongly agree*	3.37	2.93	2.93	-	0% 0	0% 0	5% 2	54% 22	41% 17	41
5	**The instructor effectively stimulated my interest.** *Scale: 0 to 4: Strongly disagree, Disagree, Neither agree nor disagree, Agree, Strongly agree*	3.15	2.82	2.82	-	0% 0	5% 2	12% 5	46% 19	37% 15	41
6	**The instructor was appropriately accessible outside of class time.** *Scale: 0 to 4: Strongly disagree, Disagree, Neither agree nor disagree, Agree, Strongly agree*	3.59	3.08	3.08	-	0% 0	0% 0	2% 1	37% 15	61% 25	41
7	**As a result of taking this course, I have a better understanding of factual knowledge, principles and/or theories in this area.** *Scale: 0 to 4: Strongly disagree, Disagree, Neither agree nor disagree, Agree, Strongly agree*	3.46	3.46	3.46	-	0% 0	0% 0	7% 3	39% 16	54% 22	41
8	**This course helped me to improve my ability to analyze, solve problems and/or think critically.** *Scale: 0 to 4: Strongly disagree, Disagree, Neither agree nor disagree, Agree, Strongly agree*	3.37	3.37	3.37	-	0% 0	0% 0	7% 3	49% 20	44% 18	41
9	**This course helped me to understand how this field asks and answers questions.** *Scale: 0 to 4: Strongly disagree, Disagree, Neither agree nor disagree, Agree, Strongly agree*	3.56	3.56	3.56	-	0% 0	0% 0	2% 1	39% 16	59% 24	41

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		Average Ratings				This Instructor Only Worst Rating...Best Rating					Responses
	Question and Scale	Instructor	Section	Course	-	0	1	2	3	4	
10	**This course challenged me to consider new ideas, concepts, or ways of thinking.** *Scale: 0 to 4: Strongly disagree, Disagree, Neither agree nor disagree, Agree, Strongly agree*	3.33	3.33	3.33	-	0% 0	0% 0	8% 3	51% 20	41% 16	39
11	**As a result of taking this course, I am more excited by this field of study.** *Scale: 0 to 4: Strongly disagree, Disagree, Neither agree nor disagree, Agree, Strongly agree*	3.22	3.22	3.22	-	0% 0	2% 1	7% 3	56% 23	34% 14	41
12	**Please rate the difficulty of the course.** *Scale: 0 to 4: Easy 0, 1, 2, 3, Difficult 4*	2.29	2.29	2.29	-	0% 0	7% 3	56% 23	37% 15	0% 0	41
13	**Please rate the amount of work required for this course.** *Scale: 0 to 4: Very Little 0, 1, 2, 3, Very Much 4*	2.24	2.24	2.24	-	0% 0	12% 5	54% 22	32% 13	2% 1	41
14	**To your knowledge, has there been cheating in this course?** *Scale: 0 to 1: Y, N*	0.98	-	-	-	3% 1	98% 39	- -	- -	- -	40

Cheating Comment	people using the bathroom during exams.
	N/A
Comment Suggestion	I liked this course. It was definitely a challenge and something out of the norm for me, but I embraced the challenge and perservered. The professor was amazing with being available outside of class and offering guidance and review sessions and homework help sessions. And the TA, Chetan, has been super helpful and I honestly wouldn't be doing well if he wasn't as helpful in his office hours. This class has been a great introduction and I am for sure going to use the skills I learned it in in my lab work for the rest of my future.
	I want to say that I did not put in great marks for Professor Kim as he mostly dealt with the graduate students and as such I could not evaluate him, though I imagine he is an excellent instructor, and I wish I had an N/A option for those. Professor Grant, the main instructor for the course, was phenomenal. He was able to make this curriculum very digestible and easy to understand. I've taken many data science and algorithm courses, however this one was by far the best instructed one. Nick Lahens was also extremely thorough and his lectures made me a much better R programmer in general. This course was fantastic and I highly recommend it to anyone interested in bioinformatics.
	I really enjoyed this class and its relevance/applicability to real research happening in the field!
	I just think that Penn needs more courses like this. At least the Penn Biology department needs more classes like this. As a person who is taking this for my major, this was a very important class, and it was one of the best classes I have ever taken at Penn. However, I am saddened to know that this class is the only class that does something like this: there are no other classes that would be able to replicate the subject material or stimulate my interest in the most practical sense.
	Chetan, TA, was very knowledgeable and helpful.
	Dr. Grant is really passionate about computational biology and cares a lot of his students. I really appreciate all the extra time he carves out for us, it's really rare to see professors as great as him. I learned a lot from the course content and really enjoyed the material.
	N/A
	Some of the lectures were dry (I think due to the material) but Dr. Grant was really kind and helped me learn a lot. I especially appreciate him offering a retake of exam 2. I learned so much this class and I really appreciate everything.
	The course was pretty good overall, though the R sections were my favorite and were the parts I found to be the most helpful. Nick Lahens and his lectures in R were definitely a highlight for me, though professor Grant s parts were also fantastic.
	This class was kind of a rollercoaster for me. The difficulty of the class varied quite a lot, and so did the homeworks, so it was quite an experience for me. But I think the root issue that lead to all the issues I had with this course was that I was just not interested in the course content and in bioinformatics. Professor Grant was a good lecturer, but I think his lectures were very geared more towards people who have a computer science background than people who only had biology background, and his lectures were a reflection of that. I didn't really find his lectures very engaging in person, and sometimes hard to follow. To make the lectures all encompassing, his slides contained a lot of content. and I mean A LOT of content. which made it sort of difficult to study what exactly he wanted us to know and what he didnt want us to know. But I think the lack of interest in the subject matter was my main issue I had with this course, and had I have been more interested in it, I would have appreciated it more. I will say that I really liked the R lectures by Nick, and I think it was because he was preparing these lectures from the vantage point that we do not know anything about R. I do appreciate Professor Grant for always being available outside of class to explain concepts, but I really wish that the lectures were recorded because there are sometimes minute details/explanations that do not exist in the slides that I wish I was able to revisit outside of going to office hours. All-in-all, I think for the most part, this class was ok, but I wish I was more engaged with the material.
	It can be very difficult to make a field and class that relies very heavily on statistics and heavy computation interested, but Dr. Grant made this course welcoming and easy to understand.

Wish the course had more focus on how to do things rather than just the theory behind them. Even the projects, it wasn't really necessary to understand what was going on as the commands were provided.

Great introductory course that provided a solid foundation to jump off from. Felt I learned a lot that will help me in my research. Well-structured with a mix of theory and practical examples. Overall a great course that I truly enjoyed.

It is a very good course that lays the foundation for our knowledge of computational biology. Dr. Grant is accessible most of the time and is very responsible. I love this course in general! It would be better if there were less math in the course and more the advanced topics in the field.