

Seminars on Science

Genetics, Genomics, Genethics Assessment

ASSESSMENT COMPONENT: ASSIGNMENTS

Course Assignments introduce processes, tools and technologies that scientists use to ask and answer questions. Assignments engage learners in scientific practices and expose them to scientific processes.

Overall Objective: To build content knowledge.

Genetics, Genomics, Genethics - Week 3 Genetically Modified Organisms

Objective	Exceeds course expectations	Meets course expectations	Approaches course expectations	Does not meet course expectations
To describe the changes that were made to the organism	Clearly described the changes made to the organism in a way that demonstrated mastery of the content.	Described the changes made to the organism in a way that demonstrated understanding of the content.	Described the changes in a way that did not demonstrate understanding or may have been inaccurate.	Did not describe the changes.
To describe the purpose of the genetic modifications that were done to the organism	Clearly described the purpose of the genetic modifications to the organism in a way that demonstrated mastery of the content.	Described the purpose of the genetic modifications in a way that demonstrated understanding of the content.	Described the purpose in a way that did not demonstrate understanding or may have been inaccurate.	Did not describe the purpose of the genetic modifications.
To present the pros and cons of the genetic modification	Clearly presented both the pros and cons of the genetic modification in a way that demonstrated mastery of the content and considered the perspective of multiple stakeholders.	Presented both the pros and cons of the genetic modification in a way that demonstrated mastery of the content and considered the perspective of multiple stakeholders.	Presented both the pros and cons of the genetic modification in a way that did not demonstrate an understanding of the content or did not consider the perspective of multiple stakeholders.	Did not present the pros and cons.
To communicate scientific ideas	Communicated ideas effectively using appropriate course-related language.	Generally communicated ideas using appropriate course-related language.	Generally communicated ideas but did not use course-related language. OR Writing contained significant errors.	Did not communicate scientific ideas.
To cite reference sources	Cited all reference sources in an organized manner.	Cited reference sources in an organized manner with minor errors.	Some reference sources omitted or poorly organized.	Did not cite reference sources.

**Genetics, Genomics, Genethics - Week 4
Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)**

Objective	Exceeds course expectations	Meets course expectations	Approaches course expectations	Does not meet course expectations
To identify the natural process that PCR mimics	Clearly articulated the process that PCR mimics in a way that demonstrated mastery of the content.	Identified the process that PCR mimics in a way that demonstrated understanding of the content.	Identified the process that PCR mimics in a way that did not demonstrate understanding or may have been inaccurate.	Did not identify the process that PCR mimics.
To list and describe the steps of PCR	Clearly articulated the steps of PCR in a way that demonstrated mastery of the content.	Listed and described the steps of PCR in a way that demonstrated understanding of the content.	Listed and described the steps of PCR in a way that did not demonstrate understanding or may have been inaccurate.	Did not list and describe the steps of PCR.
To explain the simplicity of the PCR process, its applications, and its effects on the field of molecular biology	Clearly articulated the simplicity of PCR, its many applications, and its importance to the field of molecular biology in a way that demonstrated mastery of the content.	Explained the simplicity of PCR, its applications, and its effects on the field of molecular biology in a way that demonstrated understanding of the content.	Explained the simplicity of PCR, its applications, and its effects in a way that did not demonstrate understanding or may have been inaccurate.	Did not explain the PCR process, its applications or effects.
To communicate scientific ideas	Communicated ideas effectively using appropriate course-related language.	Generally communicated ideas using appropriate course-related language.	Generally communicated ideas but did not use course-related language. OR Writing contained significant errors.	Did not communicate scientific ideas.
To cite reference sources	Cited all reference sources in an organized manner.	Cited reference sources in an organized manner with minor errors.	Some reference sources omitted or poorly organized.	Did not cite reference sources.

Genetics, Genomics, Genethics - Week 5
Parkinson's Disease

Objective	Exceeds course expectations	Meets course expectations	Approaches course expectations	Does not meet course expectations
To identify the ethical conflict of therapeutic cloning for patients with Parkinson's Disease	Clearly articulated the ethical conflict of therapeutic cloning in a way that demonstrated mastery of the content.	Identified the ethical conflict of therapeutic cloning in a way that demonstrated understanding of the content.	Identified the ethical conflict of therapeutic cloning in a way that did not demonstrate understanding or may have been inaccurate.	Did not identify the ethical conflict of therapeutic cloning.
To explore two options to resolve the ethical conflict of therapeutic cloning	Clearly explored two options to resolve the ethical conflict of therapeutic cloning, including compromises and alternatives, in a way that demonstrated mastery of the content.	Explored two options to resolve the ethical conflict of therapeutic cloning, including compromises and alternatives, in a way that demonstrated understanding of the content.	Explored options to resolve the ethical conflict of therapeutic cloning in a way that did not demonstrate understanding or may have been inaccurate. OR Explored one option to resolve the ethical conflict of therapeutic cloning.	Did not explore options to resolve the ethical conflict of therapeutic cloning.
To communicate scientific ideas	Communicated ideas effectively using appropriate course-related language.	Generally communicated ideas using appropriate course-related language.	Generally communicated ideas but did not use course-related language. OR Writing contained significant errors.	Did not communicate scientific ideas.
To cite reference sources	Cited all reference sources in an organized manner.	Cited reference sources in an organized manner with minor errors.	Some reference sources omitted or poorly organized.	Did not cite reference sources.

Genetics, Genomics, Genethics - Week 6
 Parkinson's Disease Part 2

Objective	Exceeds course expectations	Meets course expectations	Approaches course expectations	Does not meet course expectations
To identify and justify a position that manages the ethical conflict of therapeutic cloning	Clearly articulated a position that manages the ethical conflict of therapeutic cloning in a way that demonstrated mastery of the content.	Identified and justified a position that manages the ethical conflict of therapeutic cloning in a way that demonstrated understanding of the content.	Identified a position that manages the ethical conflict of therapeutic cloning in a way that did not demonstrate understanding or may have been inaccurate.	Did not identify a position.
To describe the weaknesses of a position that manages the ethical conflict of therapeutic cloning	Clearly described the weaknesses of a position that manages the ethical conflict of therapeutic cloning in a way that demonstrated mastery of the content.	Described the weaknesses of a position that manages the ethical conflict of therapeutic cloning in a way that demonstrated understanding of the content.	Described the weaknesses in a way that did not demonstrate mastery of the content or may have been inaccurate.	Did not describe the weaknesses.
To reflect on the process of ethical analysis	Reflected on the process of ethical analysis by thoroughly examining applications to other areas and personal and societal values.	Reflected on the process of ethical analysis and examined applications and values.	Did not adequately reflect on the process of ethical analysis. OR Did not examine applications and/or values.	Did not reflect on the process.
To engage in the online learning community and extend the online conversation	Posted many substantive and timely responses to other learners and course faculty.	Often responded in a substantive and timely manner to other learners and course faculty.	Occasionally responded substantively to other learners and course faculty or failed to post in a timely manner.	Posted few or no substantive responses.
To communicate scientific ideas	Communicated ideas effectively using appropriate course-related language.	Generally communicated ideas using appropriate course-related language.	Generally communicated ideas but did not use course-related language. OR Writing contained significant errors.	Did not communicate scientific ideas.
To cite reference sources	Cited all reference sources in an organized manner.	Cited reference sources in an organized manner with minor errors.	Some reference sources omitted or poorly organized.	Did not cite reference sources.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT: ASSIGNMENTS (COURSE WEIGHT: 30%)

ASSESSMENT COMPONENT: DISCUSSIONS

A large part of learning in our online courses occurs through discussion (text-based, asynchronous message exchanges). You are expected to be in frequent contact with your instructional team and other learners in the course's Discussion areas.

While this can be different from face-to-face communication, the same characteristics make classroom and online discussions meaningful. Both consist of two-way exchanges between teachers and learners: a back-and-forth that engages and deepens the understanding of all participants.

Each Discussion is graded two weeks after it begins. Weekly grades are based on how well learners reflect on content, engage in discussion with faculty and other students, and extend the online conversation (see the first two rows in the rubric). These grades will appear in the gradebook and will be combined with grades for the completion of Discussion assignments (see the third row in the rubric) to determine an Overall Assessment for Discussions.

Overall Objective: To construct content knowledge and community.

Objective	Exceeds course expectations	Meets course expectations	Approaches course expectations	Does not meet course expectations
To support reflections on content (Discussion Grade Weight: 45%)	Reflected on the Discussion question using course materials while drawing on other resources and asking additional questions.	Reflected on the Discussion question using course materials.	Did not adequately reflect on the discussion question or did not relate post to course materials.	Did not post, or posted without addressing the Discussion question.
To engage in the online learning community and extend the online conversation (Discussion Grade Weight: 35%)	Posted many substantive and timely responses to other learners and course faculty.	Often responded in a substantive and timely manner to other learners and course faculty.	Occasionally responded substantively to other learners and course faculty, or failed to post in a timely manner.	Posted few or no substantive responses.
To complete the Discussions (Discussion Grade Weight: 20%)	Completed all of the Discussions.	Completed almost all of the Discussions.	Completed more than half of the Discussions.	Completed few or no Discussions.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT: DISCUSSIONS (COURSE WEIGHT: 40%)

ASSESSMENT COMPONENT: FINAL PROJECT

You have two options for the *Final Project*.

- *Application in the Classroom*: an instructional unit based on a course topic that you might be interested in using in your own classroom or environment. How could you use questions related to this course to support research and inquiry exploration in an educational setting?
- *Application in the Field*: a research proposal that relates to a course topic you find particularly interesting. What question would you pursue if you could? How would you plan to answer that question?

Overall Objective: To build and demonstrate understanding of course content.

Objective	Exceeds course expectations	Meets course expectations	Approaches course expectations	Does not meet course expectations
To demonstrate content knowledge	Project demonstrated mastery of course content by applying appropriate scientific concepts.	Project demonstrated understanding of course content by applying appropriate scientific concepts.	Project demonstrated a limited understanding of course content by applying appropriate scientific concepts.	Project failed to demonstrate an understanding of course content.
To support scientific inquiry	Project clearly supported scientific inquiry, either by raising and investigating important questions in a manner consistent with the way scientists study the natural world, or through the clear design of classroom materials that provide students with opportunities to ask important questions and to gather, organize, analyze, and evaluate relevant information.	Project supported scientific inquiry, either by raising and investigating questions or by designing classroom materials that may provide students with opportunities to ask important questions and to gather, organize, analyze, and evaluate relevant information.	Project sought to support scientific inquiry, either by raising important questions or by designing classroom materials that might enable student research projects or practice to emerge.	Project did not support scientific inquiry.
To integrate and organize content	Incorporated all of the required elements, as well as a clearly articulated introduction and conclusion in an organized sequence that demonstrates the goals of the project.	Incorporated all of the required elements, as well as a clearly articulated introduction and conclusion in an organized sequence that demonstrated the goals of the project. Some elements lacked depth and/or clarity.	Incorporated most but not all of the required elements, or lacked an organized sequence that demonstrated the goals of the project.	Did not incorporate the required elements.
To use resources (essays, books, videos, websites, etc.)	Critically analyzed all resources. Incorporated personal ideas, course based materials, and additional resources.	Incorporated personal ideas, course based materials, and additional resources.	Drew upon some course-related resources.	Did not use resources effectively in the project.
To organize time schedules	Completed all of the milestones and the final project by the date each was due.	Completed one milestone by the due date; submitted one after the due date. Completed the final course project by the due date.	Both milestones completed, but one or both submitted after the due date. Completed the final project after the due date. OR Did not complete the milestones. Completed the final project by the due date.	Did not complete the project milestones. Completed the final project after the due date.

WEEK 3 FINAL PROJECT SUBMISSION (COMPLETE OR INCOMPLETE)

WEEK 5 FINAL PROJECT SUBMISSION (COMPLETE OR INCOMPLETE)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT: FINAL PROJECT (COURSE WEIGHT: 30%)