

Biology 420: Evolution and Medicine
Spring quarter 2015
Course syllabus

Instructor: Professor Carl T. Bergstrom, cbergst@u.washington.edu

Time and place: Tu Th 1:30-2:50
Hitchcock Hall Room 320

TA: Jake Cooper, yankel@u.washington.edu

Textbook: J. E. Harrington (2015) *Games, Strategies, and Decision Making* 2nd ed.

Grading: Your course grade will be determined as follows:

Weekly problem assignments	15%
Section	10%
In-class exam 1 (October 29th)	25%
In-class exam 2 (November 19th)	25%
In-class exam 3 (December 10th)	25%

There will be *no* final exam during exam week.

Readings: Readings will be assigned for each class period. Typically we will read a chapter or part of a chapter from the textbook as background, and often we will add one or more papers from the primary literature in biology to explore how game theoretic tools can be used in the life sciences.

With the exception of the textbook and a few readings for which you be given a web link, all of the readings are available in electronic form via the UW library:

<http://www.lib.washington.edu/types/ejournals/>. You will be responsible for obtaining your own copy of each article and reading it in advance of the class for which it is assigned. If you have trouble obtaining the one of the articles, please ask for assistance from any UW reference librarian.

Problem sets: Problem sets will be due on Tuesdays at the beginning of class, to be submitted on the course Canvas site. Please explain your work clearly in your solution to each problem. For each week's problem set, we will select one or two problems to grade in order to obtain your score. Your lowest problem set score of the quarter will be dropped.

The primary aim of the problem sets is to give you practice working with the tools of game theory. You may discuss your solutions with other students in the class. When a question asks for you to come up with a novel example, however, I expect you to come up with your own example that is different from what anyone else turns in.

No late work will be accepted for any reason.

Academic honesty: Plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct are strictly forbidden, and suspected cases of such behavior will be submitted to the University Committee on Academic Conduct for possible disciplinary action. You are responsible for knowing and following the College of Arts & Sciences policy on academic honesty:

<http://depts.washington.edu/grading/pdf/AcademicResponsibility.pdf>