MGG 7998 Course Syllabus

Course Title: Master's Essay in Molecular Genetics and Genomics (MGG).

Meeting Times: As arranged.

Faculty Contact: Dr. Russell L. Finley, Jr. 3212 Scott Hall; phone: 313 577-7845; e-mail: rfinley@med.wayne.edu; Office hours: by appointment.

Description: Students will write a scholarly document (Essay) based upon a topic of ongoing research in genetics or genomics. The Essay requires an Essay Advisor, an Essay Committee composed of 3 CMMG faculty members with Graduate Faculty status, and the satisfactory writing of a scholarly document on a genetics or genomics.

Learning Objectives:

1. Students will develop the skills needed to acquire thorough understanding of modern research in genetics and genomics
2. Students will develop an appreciation for the scientific method and methodology used in modern genetics and genomics research.
3. Students will develop and demonstrate an in depth understanding of a current topic in genetics or genomics research.
4. Students will develop scientific communication skills.

Structure: This course is part of the MGG Master's degree Plan B curriculum. Students will choose a topic in consultation with a Faculty Advisor. Students will then thoroughly research the topic and write a scholarly Essay on it. Research on the topic may include literature review, participation in laboratory meetings and seminars, and discussions with a Faculty Advisor, members of an Essay Committee, and other research scientists. Students may also enhance their understanding of a topic by participating in a relevant research project.

Students will take this course for a total of 8 credit hours, split over multiple semesters as necessary. Students will develop and submit one final Essay before the end of the semester in which they complete 8 credit hours of this class.

Grading Policy: Students will be graded on the quality of their final Essay as judged by their Faculty Advisor in consultation with the Essay Committee.
The following additional University polices also apply to this course. For more information see the Blackboard link:

Important WSU Offices and University Policies (Student)

**Religious holidays:** Because of the extraordinary variety of religious affiliations of the University student body and staff, the Academic Calendar makes no provisions for religious holidays. However, it is University policy to respect the faith and religious obligations of the individual. Students with classes or examinations that conflict with their religious observances are expected to notify their course directors in advance so that mutually agreeable alternatives may be worked out.

**Student Disabilities Services:** If you have a documented disability that requires accommodations, you will need to register with Student Disability Services for coordination of your academic accommodations. The Student Disability Services (SDS) office is located in the Adamany Undergraduate Library. The SDS telephone number is 313-577-1851 or 313-202-4216 (Videophone use only). Once your accommodation is in place, the course directors will meet with you privately to discuss your special needs. The mission of Student Disability Services is to assist the university in creating an accessible community where students with disabilities have an equal opportunity to fully participate in their educational experience at Wayne State University.

**Academic Dishonesty – Plagiarism and Cheating:** Academic misbehavior means any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the institution or subvert the education process. All forms of academic misbehavior are prohibited at Wayne State University, as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct ([http://www.doso.wayne.edu/student-conduct-services.html](http://www.doso.wayne.edu/student-conduct-services.html)). Students who commit or assist in committing dishonest acts are subject to downgrading (to a failing grade for the test, paper, or other course-related activity in question, or for the entire course) and/or additional sanctions as described in the Student Code of Conduct.

- **Cheating:** Intentionally using or attempting to use, or intentionally providing or attempting to provide, unauthorized materials, information or assistance in any academic exercise. Examples include: (a) copying from another student’s test paper; (b) allowing another student to copy from a test paper; (c) using unauthorized material such as a "cheat sheet" during an exam.

- **Fabrication:** Intentional and unauthorized falsification of any information or citation. Examples include: (a) citation of information not taken from the source indicated; (b) listing sources in a bibliography not used in a research paper.

- **Plagiarism:** To take and use another’s words or ideas as one’s own. Examples include: (a) failure to use appropriate referencing when using the words or ideas of other persons; (b) altering the language, paraphrasing, omitting, rearranging, or forming new combinations of words.
in an attempt to make the thoughts of another appear as your own.

- Other forms of academic misbehavior include, but are not limited to: (a) unauthorized use of resources, or any attempt to limit another student’s access to educational resources, or any attempt to alter equipment so as to lead to an incorrect answer for subsequent users; (b) enlisting the assistance of a substitute in the taking of examinations; (c) violating course rules as defined in the course syllabus or other written information provided to the student; (d) selling, buying or stealing all or part of an unadministered test or answers to the test; (e) changing or altering a grade on a test or other academic grade records.

**Course Drops and Withdrawals:** In the first two weeks of the (full) term, students can drop this class and receive 100% tuition and course fee cancellation. After the end of the second week there is no tuition or fee cancellation. Students who wish to withdraw from the class can initiate a withdrawal request on Pipeline. You will receive a transcript notation of WP (passing), WF (failing), or WN (no graded work) at the time of withdrawal. No withdrawals can be initiated after the end of the tenth week. Students enrolled in the 10th week and beyond will receive a grade. Because withdrawing from courses may have negative academic and financial consequences, students considering course withdrawal should make sure they fully understand all the consequences before taking this step. More information on this can be found at: [http://reg.wayne.edu/pdf-policies/students.pdf](http://reg.wayne.edu/pdf-policies/students.pdf)