COVID-19 CONTINGENCY PLAN

GENETICS and EVOLUTION (BIOB 272, Spring 2020)

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Rationale:
In the event that the spread of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) leads to disruption of UM activities and community-wide disruption of services, it may be necessary for students to stay in their homes/dorms, and for UM faculty to deliver content remotely, so as to continue course completion on schedule.

Effective Immediately:
Starting today, all students with cough/flu-like symptoms should NOT attempt to come to class. Email me and I will send links to lectures that you miss, so that there will be no penalty attendance-wise. For sections, we will work to get videoconferencing enabled so that students with symptoms can participate digitally in the discussions; until that capability is functional, there will be no penalty for absence, so long as you inform your TA of your situation.

This is important: Although you may still feel able to go to class, by doing so you put others around you at risk. As healthy undergraduates, you are not the most "at risk" sector of our population, but it is your responsibility to do your part to make sure that you do not transmit the virus to others who might be at high risk (including student peers with severe asthma, respiratory conditions, and/or compromised immune systems, and many faculty and staff who are older and are at much greater risk). If you think you might be sick, STAY HOME and we will find a way to accommodate the absence without penalty to your grade.

There are some very basic steps you can take to help us limit transmission of COVID-19. First, don’t panic. Panic is absolutely more dangerous than COVID-19. Starting now, wash your hands every 20 minutes if possible. Do not touch your face. Do not shake hands with others. Remember that current data suggest COVID-19 can be transmitted by completely asymptomatic individuals. Our goal is to limit transmission. While current models suggest 20-60% of us will be exposed to COVID-19, washing hands and other basic strategies will help reduce the number of cases when COVID-19 first arrives.

If UM closes or cancels in-person classes:
Genetics & Evolution is one of UM’s largest lecture classes, and as such it comprises a larger-than-recommended gathering of people each class period. For this reason, I will be among the
first to cancel classes in the event of significant COVID-19 presence on campus or in Missoula. If this occurs, all course materials and assignments will still be available remotely.

Weekly **Learning Curve assessments** will still be due each Monday at 9 PM, as before, through the Macmillan Learning web page. This portion of your grade will be unaffected (it was online anyway!).

Weekly Readings for **Discussion Section and Homework Questions** will also continue as before, to be turned in online each Monday before 9 PM, through Moodle.

Weekly discussion sections will occur at their regularly schedule times, but students and the TA will log-in remotely to a conference chat room using zoom conferencing, or an alternate platform (TBA).

Bi-weekly lectures will be recorded on zoom, and students will be emailed links to the recordings through Moodle, so that they can watch the lectures on their own time.

Details about the final exam will be determined closer to that time, depending on the situation and whether classes are back in session or not.

**Grading**

Grading will be largely unaffected, since the mid-term exam is completed already, and since all of the regular homework assignments can be completed remotely. Discussion Section grades will still require the regular reading of weekly papers and completion of the associated homework questions, but attendance requirements will be relaxed provided students maintain contact with their TA's. The one unknown will be the final, and I will advise you of the status and nature of that exam as we get closer to that date.

Grades will be based how many of **1230 points** you earn over the course of the semester.

1. Learning Curve assessments (30 pts per week, 390 points total)
2. **Discussion sections** (110 points for attendance [10pts per week]), 330 points for homework [30 pts per week] – 440 points total).
3. **One mid-term exam** (200 points)
4. **Comprehensive final exam** (200 points). The Final Exam will be comprehensive and test material covered throughout the semester.