

Welcome to the Final Exam!

BNFO 301: Introduction to Bioinformatics

The primary purpose of this exam is to serve as an educational tool. With this in mind, you should not be surprised if some of the problems go beyond your present abilities and try to connect things that may not yet have been connected. Nonetheless, most of the elements have been drawn from the problem sets, study questions, and your project. If you ask yourself, “*Have I seen something like this before?*” the answer is almost always yes. Answer what you can and go as far as you can (and a bit further) with the rest. This exam differs from the previous, however, in that it is also designed to assess. You were invited to the exam because I don’t feel comfortable in giving a grade regarding your abilities to apply computation to biological problems. I’m hoping this exam will clarify matters.

Don’t allow yourself to get stuck! There are always ways of getting through or around a problem.

RULES OF THE GAME

- **In-class exam:** This exam, unlike previous ones, is not a take-home exam.
- **When is the exam:** 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM, Wednesday, May 12.
- **Where is the exam:** The usual computer lab, Room 104 of the Life Sciences Building.
- **Available resources:** This is an open book exam. It is an open notes exam. It is an open web exam. Most important, it is an open brain exam.
- **Unavailable resources:** Needless to say, it is not an open people exam. There will be no access to e-mail until all your work is completed and you wish to submit the exam.
- **Major exception:** I *am* an open resources for this exam and would be delighted to consult with you as you need consulting. I’ll be there.
- **Consultations may not be totally free:** You may be charged some fraction of the points allotted to a question for any advice related to that question (but **you’ll be advised before any charge is levied**). Charges are highest for general questions (like “*I don’t know what to do with this question*”) and lowest (and usually nonexistent) for specific questions (like “*I don’t know how BioBIKE asks for input from the user*”). Before asking for a consultation, get clear in your mind what is the form of the minimal hint you need.
- **What to submit:**
 - In general, electronic submission is preferred. Hard copy is a distinct second choice, but if for some reason you find it necessary, paper submission will not be refused.
 - If you send one or more attached files, **be sure that the filename begins with your name** (so I don’t get a mailbox full of files named “Exam.doc”). **Any file submitted whose file name does not contain the name of the submitter will have its spirit extracted and placed inside a doll, which I will then stick pins in.**
 - Submit your **thought processes** as well as the answer.