

# Syllabus for BTRY 720, Topics in Computational Genomics

Meets: Tues, 1:25–2:15 pm, Warren 261  
Credits: 1; S/U only  
Professor: Adam Siepel (101 Biotech; acs4@cornell.edu; 4-1157)  
Web page: <http://compgen.bscb.cornell.edu/~acs/btry720.html>

## **Class Description**

Weekly seminar series on recent advances in computational genomics. A selection of the latest papers in the field will be read and discussed. Methods will be stressed, but biological results and their significance will also be addressed.

## **Class Format**

Each class will consist of an informal student presentation on one or more papers of interest, and a discussion. The papers to be discussed will be selected the first week, and all students should have read the designated paper or papers when each class meets. To get a grade of “S” you need to come to class, read the papers, participate in discussions, and do a good job with your presentation.

## **Guidelines For Your Presentation**

- Aim to present for 30–40 min. We’ll fill the rest of the time with discussion.
- Try to be clear and organized, but you don’t have to spend a lot of time polishing your presentation. However, I do recommend using electronic slides so that you can show the figures from the paper. An LCD projector will be provided.
- Summarize the paper. Identify where it fits into the field, state its main conclusions, and summarize the methods used.
- What’s really novel about the paper, in terms of both methodology and conclusions? What impact do you think it has had or will have?
- What are the paper’s major strengths and weaknesses? This can be a starting point for discussion.
- Compare the paper to others we’ve discussed, if appropriate.

## **Administrative Matters**

- This class has a prerequisite of BTRY 484/684 or permission of instructor. If you have not taken BTRY 484/684 but have a reasonably strong background in bioinformatics, you should be fine. Otherwise, please see me and we can discuss whether the class is suitable for you.
- Please send a message to [acs4@cornell.edu](mailto:acs4@cornell.edu) with your email address so that I can add you to the class mailing list. In the same message, you may suggest additional papers to be considered for the class and I will add them to the current list.
- Please send me your top five choices for papers by Tuesday, January 29. I will try to satisfy people’s preferences as much as possible in making a schedule for the class.