

# Syllabus for BTRY 7200, Topics in Computational Genomics

Meets: Tues, 1:25–2:15 pm, Warren 232 [may change]  
Credits: 1; S/U only  
Professor: Adam Siepel (101 Biotech; acs4@cornell.edu; 4-1157)  
Web page: <http://compgen.bscb.cornell.edu/~acs/btry7200.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 a paper of interest, along with 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 ~40 min. We’ll fill the rest of the time with discussion.
- You don’t have to spend a lot of time polishing your presentation, but try to be clear and organized. I 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 key results, and explain the methods used.
- Include some analysis and starting points for discussion: What’s really novel, in terms of both methodology and conclusions? What are the paper’s major strengths and weaknesses? What impact has the paper had or will it have? How does it compare with others we’ve read?

## **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 27. I will try to satisfy people’s preferences as much as possible in making a schedule for the class.