

Fall 2024, 4004 Natural History Building, Thursday 3-4:50PM

Location/Time: 4004 Natural History Building, Thursday 3-4:50 PM

Course Canvas: [Fall 2024-IB 299-IB 204 Merit Workshop-Section B \(illinois.edu\)](#)

TA: Vincent Prayugo

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SIB Merit Director: Dr. Lily Arias

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Office hours: Tuesday 1-3 pm 2092 Natural History Building

The goal of Merit is to help build critical thinking skills alongside course material. Discussions are not simply reviews from lecture but are designed using group-based learning activities. Therefore, your preparation and participation are key for class to run smoothly. A large part of how the Merit program will benefit you comes from how you interact with the class. You are expected to contribute your ideas and insights as well as your questions. Please use this opportunity to its greatest advantage. There is no outside work for this discussion (aside from occasional mock exams), but students should expect to commit the whole class period to instructional activities. Additionally, there are no required texts or other materials needed for this class other than those required and supplied by IB 204 Genetics.

Each student may earn up to 20 points for their performance in each of the 14 Merit sessions, thus the course is out of 280 points total. Each session will start with a 10-minute quiz, worth 5 points. The remaining 15 points will come from group activities and worksheets. There is no homework aside from completing the mock exams before Merit session.

Attendance. Attendance is required. Absences need to be documented to make up the points. The instructor will communicate how to earn points for the missed discussion period. There are no make-up discussions.

Preparation: Preparation includes having read through class material and familiarity with key terms from the lecture. It is extremely important that you come to Merit prepared so you can actively participate in the group discussions and activities.

Participation: The Merit section is designed to help you with critical thinking and enhance your verbal and communication skills. You will need to actively participate in the group activities every class. Participation will be evaluated by TA assessment. During activities, you will be talking to other members of your group and will equally participate in all the work your group produces.

We will use this grade scale for final grades:

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
<59%	F

Course Schedule

August 24	Intro and Discussion 1
August 31	Discussion 2
September 7	Discussion 3
September 14	Discuss Mock Exam 1
September 21	Discussion 5
September 28	Discussion 6
October 5	Discussion 7
October 12	Discuss Mock Exam 2
October 19	Discussion 9
October 26	Discussion 10
November 2	Discuss Mock Exam 3
November 9	Discussion 12
November 16	Discussion 13
November 23	NO CLASS
November 30	Discuss Mock Exam 4

Inclusivity Statement

The effectiveness of this course is dependent upon the creation of an encouraging and safe classroom environment. Exclusionary, offensive or harmful speech (such as racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, etc.) will not be tolerated and in some cases will be subject to University harassment procedures. We are all responsible for creating a positive and safe environment that allows all students equal respect and comfort. I expect each of you to help establish and maintain an environment where you and your peers can contribute without fear of ridicule or intolerant or offensive language.

Student Accommodations

Students with disabilities who require assistance to participate in this class must provide the instructor with the Letter for Academic accommodations drafted by the DRES staff. The instructor will assist with the provision of accommodations when reasonable and necessary. Follow this link to learn more about students accommodations and DRES:

<https://www.disability.illinois.edu/academic-supports/accommodations/academic-accommodations>

To obtain disability-related academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the course instructor and the Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) as soon as possible. To contact DRES, you may visit 1207 S. Oak St., Champaign, call 333-4603, email disability@illinois.edu or go to the DRES website. If you are concerned you have a disability related condition that is impacting your academic progress, there are academic screening appointments available on campus that can help diagnosis a previously undiagnosed disability by visiting the DRES website and selecting "Sign-Up for an Academic Screening" at the bottom of the page. If you are interested in obtaining information to improve writing, study skills, time management or organization, the following campus resources are available to all students: Writer's Workshop Undergrad Library 217-333-8796

COVID-19 Statement:

COVID-19 still represents a significant threat to community health. If you experience symptoms or test positive for COVID-19, please do not attend class. Illness is absolutely an excused absence, and I plan to be as flexible as possible with regards to COVID-19.

Academic Integrity

It is the responsibility of each student to refrain from infractions of academic integrity, from conduct that may lead to suspicion of such infractions, and from conduct that aids others in such infractions. Follow this link to learn what behaviors are considered infractions to the academic integrity policies.

<https://studentcode.illinois.edu/article1/part4/1-402/>

Emergency situation

Emergencies can happen anywhere and at any time, so it's important that we take a minute to prepare for a situation in which our safety could depend on our ability to react quickly. Take a moment to learn the different ways to leave this building. If there's ever a fire alarm or similar alert, you'll know how to get out and you'll be able to help others get out. Next, figure out the best place to go in case of severe weather – we'll need to go to a low-level in the middle of the building, away from windows. And finally, if there's ever someone trying to hurt us, our best option is to run out of the building. If we cannot do that safely, we'll want to hide somewhere we can't be seen, and we'll have to lock or barricade the door if possible and be as quiet as we can. We will not leave that safe area until we get an Illini-Alert confirming that it's safe to do so. If we can't run or hide, we'll fight back with whatever we can get our hands on. If you want to better prepare yourself for any of these situations, visit police.illinois.edu/safe. Remember you can sign up for emergency text messages at emergency.illinois.edu.

Run > Hide > Fight

Emergencies can happen anywhere and at any time. It is important that we take a minute to prepare for a situation in which our safety or even our lives could depend on our ability to react quickly. When we're faced with almost any kind of emergency – like severe weather or if someone is trying to hurt you – we have three options: Run, hide or fight.



Run

Leaving the area quickly is the best option if it is safe to do so.

- › Take time now to learn the different ways to leave your building.
- › Leave personal items behind.
- › Assist those who need help, but consider whether doing so puts yourself at risk.
- › Alert authorities of the emergency when it is safe to do so.



Hide

When you can't or don't want to run, take shelter indoors.

- › Take time now to learn different ways to seek shelter in your building.
- › If severe weather is imminent, go to the nearest indoor storm refuge area.
- › If someone is trying to hurt you and you can't evacuate, get to a place where you can't be seen, lock or barricade your area if possible, silence your phone, don't make any noise and don't come out until you receive an Illini-Alert indicating it is safe to do so.



Fight

As a last resort, you may need to fight to increase your chances of survival.

- › Think about what kind of common items are in your area which you can use to defend yourself.
- › Team up with others to fight if the situation allows.
- › Mentally prepare yourself – you may be in a fight for your life.

Please be aware of people with disabilities who may need additional assistance in emergency situations.

Other resources

- › police.illinois.edu/safe for more information on how to prepare for emergencies, including how to run, hide or fight and building floor plans that can show you safe areas.
- › emergency.illinois.edu to sign up for Illini-Alert text messages.
- › Follow the University of Illinois Police Department on Twitter and Facebook to get regular updates about campus safety.