

IB 35 AC: Human Biological Variation

FALL 2020

Lecture videos, assigned readings, activities, and quizzes are posted within each modules and are to be worked through independently following the posted schedule of due dates.

All discussion sections meet via Zoom.

There is no final exam; an essay serves as the final project.

> [Syllabus Outline \(click to expand\)](#)

Faculty Instructor:

Professor Leslea J. Hlusko (<http://www.lesleahlusko.org/>), Department of Integrative Biology

Office: 5085 Valley Life Sciences Building

Office Hours:

- Mondays 9-10am PST (Zoom Meeting ID:
- Wednesdays 4-5pm PST (Zoom Meeting ID:

Course email address:

ib35ac@berkeley.edu

Be sure to check out the [Email Policy](#) for additional instructions on emailing your instructors.

Course Description:

This course addresses modern human biological variation from historical, comparative, evolutionary, biomedical, and cultural perspectives. It is designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of comparative biology, evolutionary theory, and genetics.

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Prerequisites:

There are no prerequisites for this course. All majors are welcome.

Course Format:

This is a 4-unit online course with discussion section. Modules will be posted weekly to the bCourses site, which will include lecture videos, assignments, quizzes, readings, and links to other helpful material. Students will participate via Zoom during the one-hour discussion section each week in which they are enrolled.

There is no final exam for this course. Instead, students will write an essay reflecting on the Creative Discovery Project. The essay prompt will be posted on November 30, 2020, and the essay will be due on December 14, 2020.

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Grading:

Performance in the course will be assessed by dividing the number of points earned by the total possible points. There are 510 possible points, broken-down by assignment as follows:

Each module has a 5-point activity (5 points x 14 modules = 70 total possible points)

Each module has a 20-point quiz (20 points x 14 modules = 280 possible points)

Each discussion section has a 10-point activity (10 points x 12 discussion sections = 120 possible points)

Creative Discovery Project:

Peer-review at the end of the semester (10 points)

Final project essay, in lieu of a final exam (30 points)

Final grades will be calculated as the total number of points earned divided by the total possible (510). Final grades are determined following the default UC Berkeley categories established on bCourses, shown below. Note that grades are not automatically submitted via bCourses, and as such there may be discrepancies that arise as the semester unfolds. We will keep you updates as those occur (i.e., if we offer any extra credit, etc.)

- A : 100% to 94.0%
- A-: <94.0% to 90.0%
- B+: <90.0% to 87.0%
- B : <87.0% to 84.0%
- B-: <84.0% to 80.0%
- C+: <80.0% to 77.0%
- C : <77.0% to 74.0%
- C-: <74.0% to 70.0%
- D+: <70.0% to 67.0%
- D : <67.0% to 64.0%
- D-: <64.0% to 61.0%
- F : <61.0% to 04.0%

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The student community at UC Berkeley has adopted the following Honor Code:

“As a member of the UC Berkeley community, I act with honesty, integrity, and respect for others.”

The expectation is that you will adhere to this code, as your instructors pledge to do as well. For more information, please visit this website: <http://asuc.org/honorcode/index.php>
(<http://asuc.org/honorcode/index.php>)

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Policy on UC Berkeley’s Code of Student Conduct:

All students are expected to follow the University of California at Berkeley’s Campus Code of Student Conduct, as is published at <http://sa.berkeley.edu/code-of-conduct> (<http://sa.berkeley.edu/code-of-conduct>). Cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated (102.01).

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Policy on Plagiarism:

In academia, ideas are our commodity. Taking direct text, ideas, data, or results from someone else's work without properly giving credit is essentially stealing. Representing them as your own is unacceptable in a university and we take it very seriously here at UC Berkeley. We will pursue disciplinary action against students who plagiarize in this class. If you are unfamiliar with plagiarism, please see the tutorial on the Biosciences Library website about citations generally (<https://guides.lib.berkeley.edu/c.php?g=444859&p=3081992> [.\(https://guides.lib.berkeley.edu/c.php?g=444859&p=3081992\).](https://guides.lib.berkeley.edu/c.php?g=444859&p=3081992)) and this resource on plagiarism specifically (<https://libguides.mit.edu/citing#plagiarism> [.\(https://libguides.mit.edu/citing#plagiarism\).](https://libguides.mit.edu/citing#plagiarism)).

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Required Text:

Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, by Rebecca Skloot ISBN 978-1-4000-5218-9

Available electronically [here through UC Berkeley's library catalogue](#) (<http://oskicat.berkeley.edu/record=b25673721~S1>).

Course website:

The course website is available to enrolled students through bCourses at <https://bcourses.berkeley.edu/>. You should work through the content independently for each module; we have organized this into "experiences" to help guide you through the information. All of the materials except for the text book noted above is provided via bCourses. The only real-time instruction is during your one-hour discussion section. These materials are also provided on bCourses.

Copyright:

Prof. Hlusko's lectures and course materials, including powerpoint presentations, info pages, quizzes, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by U.S. copyright law and by [University policy](#) (<https://copyright.universityofcalifornia.edu/resources/ownership-course-materials.html>). She is the exclusive owner of the copyright in those materials she creates. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own use. You may also share those materials with another student who is registered and enrolled in this course, and with DSP.

You may not [reproduce, distribute or display \(post/upload\)](#) (<https://copyright.universityofcalifornia.edu/resources/recorded-presentations.html>) lecture notes or recordings or course materials in any other way — whether or not a fee is charged — without Prof. Hlusko's express written consent. You also may not allow others to do so.

If you do so, you may be subject to student conduct proceedings under the [Berkeley Code of Student Conduct, including Sections 102.23 and 102.25.](https://sa.berkeley.edu/uga/codeofconduct) [_\(https://sa.berkeley.edu/uga/codeofconduct\)](https://sa.berkeley.edu/uga/codeofconduct)

Similarly, you own the copyright in your original papers and exam essays. If the course instructors are interested in posting your answers or papers on the course web site, we will ask for your written permission.

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Email policy:

In order to keep class queries a priority, we established a class-specific email address. The instructors will respond to emails within 24 hours of receipt from 8am PST on Monday through 5pm PST on Friday (Friday emails will receive a reply on Monday). Although email is available to you 24 hours a day 7 days a week, we, unfortunately, cannot be. Please keep this in mind and plan ahead as much as possible.

All email related to the class must go through the IB35AC@BERKELEY.EDU (<mailto:IB35AC@BERKELEY.EDU>) address. Given the vast amount of research and administrative-related email correspondence that your instructors face on a daily basis, WE CANNOT GUARANTEE A TIMELY REPLY IF YOU EMAIL PROF. HLUSKO OR THE GSIs DIRECTLY.

Please keep in mind that any of the GSIs and/or Prof. Hlusko can all read email sent to ib35ac@berkeley.edu (<mailto:ib35ac@berkeley.edu>). **Please indicate your GSI in the subject line** so that the subject of your email reads something like this: "GSI Peter: missed section." If you would like to discuss a confidential issue, please write to ib35ac@berkeley.edu (<mailto:ib35ac@berkeley.edu>) to request an individualized meeting.

You must sign your email with the official name you use with the University and/or use your email address registered with the University. If we cannot tell that you are officially a student at Berkeley and enrolled in IB35ac this semester, we will not reply to your email. THIS INCLUDES MESSAGES SENT FROM CELL PHONES.

Please use proper grammar and complete sentences so that your request is clearly understandable.

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Policy on accommodation of religious holidays and other scheduling conflicts:

In compliance with Education code, Section 92640(a), it is the official policy of the University of California at Berkeley to permit any student to undergo a test or examination, without penalty, at a time when that activity would not violate the student's religious creed, unless administering the examination at an alternative time would impose an undue hardship which could not reasonably have been avoided.

We have tried to avoid all major religious holidays, but given how diverse Berkeley's community is, we may have unintentionally missed a date that is important to you. All deadlines and due dates are noted on this syllabus. It is your responsibility to note any scheduling conflicts and let the instructor or GSIs

know. We are happy to figure out an accommodation that will work. If you have other scheduling conflicts, please see the guidelines at: https://academic-senate.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/guidelines_acadschedconflicts_july2006.pdf (https://academic-senate.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/guidelines_acadschedconflicts_july2006.pdf).

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Policy on power-outages, wildfires, and other disasters that impact the UC Berkeley community:

For every day that the campus community experiences a power outage, we will extend the due date for the current module and associated activity and quiz by a day. So, for example, if we have a 3-day power outage either on campus or across a large swatch of the local community, we will extend the two open-modules by 3 days. We will keep an eye on other geographic regions as well; please let us know if you live outside the SF Bay Area and are impacted by a power outage or wildfire so that we can accommodate the disruption to your learning.

As for discussion sections, the adjustment will depend on which module is interrupted. You will receive an email from ib35ac@berkeley.edu (<mailto:ib35ac@berkeley.edu>) within a couple of hours of when the outage occurs or is announced. That email will tell you when we will have the alternative plan worked out and announced for the discussion sections.

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Policy on make-ups:

We will not administer make-up quizzes or other assignments. You are given a two-week window in which to complete the quizzes and activities for the independent content, which should provide the flexibility to cover most situations. Please contact us if your situation is not easily accommodated in this policy.

If you need to miss your discussion section, please coordinate this with your GSI.

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Policy on turning in assignments late:

Only a documented illness or some other unforeseeable emergency will allow us to grant you a later due date than what is posted on this syllabus for your discussion section assignments or final essay.

Anticipated events do not count as acceptable reasons for turning in assignments late (even if it is a University-approved one), as you can and should plan ahead and turn in assignments early.

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Policy on attendance for lecture:

Being an online course, all lectures are available to you to watch at your convenience. Quizzes and activities are based on this material. We expect that you will draw upon the resources we provide for the quizzes and activities rather than turning to other, out-of-class materials.

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Policy on attendance for discussion section:

There will be an activity in each section worth 10 points of your final grade. There are 12 formal discussion section meetings. Six of these section meetings and your final essay revolve around the Creative Discovery Project, which is a guided group project that is scaffolded around discussion sections. It is very important that you attend and participate if you want to receive full credit for the project.

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Policy on cell phones:

Although this course will take place entirely online and you will have the opportunity to work through much of the material at your own pace, cell phones can still become a disruption to your own learning and, in the case of Discussion Sections, to the learning ability of others. We recommend that you silence your phone when working through the course material to maintain focus on the lessons at hand. Additionally, silencing your phone when you are in your Discussion Section is especially important as it can distract your fellow students and Grad Student Instructor, taking away from their learning experience.

We understand that there may be occasional situations in which you need to receive or send an emergency text, but keep in mind that excessive texting or other use of your phones is distracting to other people in the class. If your cell phone activity becomes disruptive, you will be asked to leave the section meeting.

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Policy on students with learning disabilities:

We automatically receive notice about accommodations for students who have those records on file with DSP. While a GSI will be in touch with you individually to make sure everything is set up appropriately for you, we ask that you also be proactive with us and check-in. If you do not have your accommodations arranged yet through DSP, please do so as soon as possible.

UC Berkeley is committed to creating a learning environment that meets the needs of its diverse student body. If you anticipate or experience any barriers to learning in this course, please feel welcome to discuss your concerns with Prof. Hlusko and/or your GSI.

If you have a disability, or think you may have a disability, you can work with the Disabled Students' Program (DSP) to request an official accommodation. The Disabled Students' Program (DSP) is the

campus office responsible for authorizing disability-related academic accommodations, in cooperation with the students themselves and their instructors. You can find more information about DSP, including contact information and the application process here: dsp.berkeley.edu (<https://dsp.berkeley.edu>). If you have already been approved for accommodations through DSP, please get in touch with Prof. Hlusko and/or your GSI so we can develop an implementation plan together.

Students who need academic accommodations or have questions about their accommodations should contact DSP, located at 260 César Chávez Student Center. Students may call 642-0518 (voice), 642-6376 (TTY), or e-mail dsp@berkeley.edu ([link sends e-mail](mailto:dsp@berkeley.edu)) (<mailto:dsp@berkeley.edu>).

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Policy on emergency and traumatic situations:

In a class this size, every year a handful of students experience some type of traumatic life event. If you are one of these unfortunate students this year, please know that the University is here for you. First and foremost, we care about you as a person. Your classwork comes second.



The expertise of our instructional team is focused on the biological sciences, but know that we are here to help direct you towards the professionals on campus who are trained to help in times of duress. Additionally, we will work with you to make sure you can complete the course when you are better positioned to learn.

If you find yourself facing a traumatic situation, an important first place to turn is the Counseling and Psychological Services program (<https://uhs.berkeley.edu/counseling> (<https://uhs.berkeley.edu/counseling>)). There are numerous options for how to accommodate the academic side of your life when you are confronting trauma, but we can only make this happen if we know that you are in an emergency situation. Please do not hesitate to reach out for assistance. We are here to help you get the help you need to get well and/or stay healthy, and to make sure you can finish the course when you are in a better situation and can do so meaningfully.

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Course Summary:

Date	Details
Fri Sep 4, 2020	 Module 1. Activity (https://bcourses.berkeley.edu/courses/1493380/assignments/8123630) due by 11:59pm
	 Module 1. Quiz (https://bcourses.berkeley.edu/courses/1493380/assignments/8121958) due by 11:59pm