

CAP 5510 / CGS 5166 Bioinformatics

Due: any time before **April 1**

General Knowledge Assignments

Considering that this is a fascinating and fast-evolving field, here are three special simple assignments for you:

1. Find a popular article (from a newspaper, e.g., New York Times, or from a magazine, e.g., Time, Scientific American) relevant to our course and write a brief summary.
2. Read a scientific article from a journal or conference (e.g., Science, Nature, PNAS, Cell, PLoS) relevant to our course and write a brief summary. If you are a CS major, I suggest you find something that is more biological; if you are majoring in the life sciences, find an article that is somewhat computational.
3. Watch a movie, TV show (e.g., NOVA, Ted talks) relevant to our course and write a brief summary. The show must be at least 15 minutes long.

The summary should be at least one paragraph long. It cannot be a cut-and-paste of the contents of the source. It needs to be in your own words. Ideally, it should not cover material we have covered in class. It may be turned in any time before April 1. All three do not have to be turned in at the same time. It needs to be from a real source. It should cite the source explicitly. For each of the 3 assignments, if it satisfies the conditions stated above, you will get full credit, otherwise you will get zero credit. Please submit the summary as a MS Word document. There shall be absolutely no collaboration on this assignment.

All submitted summaries will be available on the class home page (with or without the name of the author), if you agree to it. I challenge you to find the most thought-provoking and interesting articles to write about, especially ones that your classmates or I may not have heard about. Note that there are many interesting articles in the general area of biomedical, health, or life sciences, but I challenge you to find ones where computing and bioinformatics is relevant and has made an impact.