

Organization of Homeworks and Project for Public Health – 2012-2013 –

In practice

- Subgroups are formed
- “Topics” are identified. These topics lie in the interest field of the student. Homework assignments make links between these topics and key aspects of genetic epidemiology.
- Each homework assignment (2 in total), will be made in the formed subgroups. A group report is handed in (due date communicated in class) and a group score is given
- Each homework report is presented in class (in front of all students) and a class discussion is initiated. Presentation slides are made available to all students, via the course website. Hints are given to further improve the homework and/or clues are given about which information to add.
- Based on the extra information (to improve/correct/append homeworks), homeworks 1 and 2 are merged into one final project, with a clear story that is in line with genetic epidemiology thinking. An individual report is handed in as final project.
- This project is taken as a basis during the oral exam. The oral exam is completed via a discussion on specific “themes”, relevant to genetic epidemiology.

Themes

- Heritability
- Characterizing a population
- Linkage versus association
- Population stratification
- Quality control: why, when, how?
- Scaling up: from candidate-gene to genome-wide
- Biological interpretation of gene-gene interactions

Resources available

- Course notes
- Information from past courses / your thesis work
- A good reference of papers for the purposes of the homeworks can be retrieved from:
<http://www.nslj-genetics.org/ld/>
- You may find the following list of software package useful as well:
<http://www.nslj-genetics.org/soft/>

Reports

- Restrict the homework 1 and 2 reports maximally to the equivalent of six single-spaced typed pages of text, excluding figures, tables and bibliography. The report should contain an introduction, a description of what the paper/project does, and how this fits into the broader scientific context or the genetic epidemiology course. The report should also have a conclusion and if citations are made to other papers, there should also be a bibliography. Only one report per group is needed.
- The individual-based final report serves as a “written exam” and should be no more than the equivalent of 20 spaced typed pages of text, including figures, tables and bibliography. During the oral exam, report on extensions made to the group reports. Additional questions are asked, starting from the report, going into more depth regarding two “themes” (selected from above).