

**Syllabus for STA480/STA2080**  
Fundamentals of Statistical Genetics  
Lei Sun

**1. Contents**

- We start with an overview of genetic studies to have a general understanding of its goal and study design.
- We then introduce the basic genetic terminologies necessary for the discussion of the various statistical methods used to understand human genetics
- The topics include basic concepts of population genetics, principles of inheritance, likelihood for pedigree data, aggregation, heritability and segregation analyses, map and linkage analysis, population-based and family-based association studies, genome-wide association studies and multiple hypothesis testing.

**2. Prerequisites**

- Although "we assume no formal training in genetics, we [do] assume familiarity with elementary probability, statistical inference and methods".
- The prerequisite is [STA303-Methods of Data Analysis](#) or equivalent.

**3. Textbook and Lecture Notes**

- The teaching will generally follow the book by Laird and Lange: [The Fundamentals of Modern Statistical Genetics](#) (can be accessed online through the UofT library)
- Instructor will provide additional materials.
- Integrated course notes in .pdf format will be posted in advance of each lecture.

**4. Evaluation**

- In-class closed book test 1 (30%), scheduled for Monday Oct 19th
- In-class closed book test 2 (30%), scheduled for Monday November 23rd
- In-class closed book final test (40%), during the exam period of December 11-22.

**5. Other Important Information**

- No class on November break Monday, November 9th, BUT there will be a make-up class on Wednesday December 9th, 9:30am-12:30pm
- There is no TA for the course
- The instructor will host office hour Thursdays 2-3pm.
- Some statistical genetics programs will be briefly discussed, but there will be no hands-on computing labs or R programming. R codes used by the instructor will be made available.