

Lecture: 2:00 - 3:15 PM, T & R, BC 1024

Instructor: Jim Loughry

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Office Hours: 10:45 AM – 12:00 PM T & R, or any other time by appointment

TEXT: *Evolutionary Analysis*, by Scott Freeman and Jon Herron, 4th Edition, 2007, Pearson/Prentice Hall.

COURSE GOALS: This course covers the theoretical aspects and the patterns and processes of micro- and macro-evolutionary change.

PREREQUISITE: BIOL 3200 (Genetics)

EXAMS: There will be 4 exams in this course. The exams will each cover 1/4 of the lecture and reading material. Exams will be short answer and essay, and each will be worth 100 points. In addition, there will be an optional 100 point final exam. If you take the final I will drop the lowest of your four exam scores in calculating your final grade. Thus, you wind up with 500 potential points from the exams, but only 400 points will count. So, if you have a bad day and bomb an exam, remember it's not the end of the world and that score can be dropped.

MAKE-UPS: Because the final is optional and can make up for a previous exam, there will be **NO** make-ups for any of the first four exams. If you miss one, for whatever reason, that will represent your dropped exam and you will have to take the final. This policy has a couple of important implications: 1) you better not miss more than one exam, and 2) there is some incentive in taking the first four exams and thus possibly avoiding the final.

ESSAYS: In addition to the exams, you will be given a minimum of 5 essay questions during the quarter. Each deals with a special philosophical issue in evolutionary theory. Outside readings will be made available that deal with each topic. Each essay is worth 10 points, so in total the essays are worth 50 points toward your final grade.

TERM PAPER: The final component of your grade will be determined by a term paper you will write, worth 100 points. The topic of the paper can be in one of two areas: (1) some theoretical aspect of evolution (e.g., vicariance theories of speciation, evolution of mate choice, punctuated evolution, etc) or (2) a case study of evolution in a particular group (e.g., speciation in Galapagos finches, the evolution of hominids, etc). In either case, these papers should be exhaustively researched and referenced. I hate to set length limits, but it seems fairly impossible to me that you could present a detailed discussion of your topic in less than 10 typed pages. **TERM PAPER TOPICS MUST BE APPROVED BY ME** and you must come in and get that approval by **MIDTERM** (Thursday, March 3). If you don't have a project approved by midterm, I will begin taking off points at the rate of 1 per day (including weekends) from the possible total for your paper. See my web site for detailed information about writing your term paper as well as

links to various web sites dealing with topics in evolution. In order to get the term papers graded prior to the final, all papers will be due on **Friday, April 22**.

NOTE: Late submissions of any papers are penalized at the rate of 10% per day. Thus, for each day that an essay is late you lose 1 point, while for each day your term paper is late you lose 10 points.

ATTENDANCE: It is up to you to decide whether or not to come to class. I will not take attendance or penalize absences. However, you are responsible for all material and assignments given in class. Since some of what I will talk about in class is not in the text (but is on the exams), class attendance is usually beneficial.

GRADING: All material will be graded by me and returned to you within a day or two. See the course outline for exam dates. Any questions, problems, complaints, etc. regarding the exams must be taken care of in the week after the exams are returned to you. The statute of limitations on appeals runs out at that time.

Final grades will be based on cumulative points (400 from exams, 50 from essays, and 100 from the term paper, for a total of 550) and will be distributed according to the following percentages (the total number of points represented by these percentages is shown in parentheses):

90-100 (495-550) A
80-89 (440-494) B
70-79 (385-439) C
60-69 (330-384) D

If everyone in the class scores above 90%, then everyone will get an A. If no one scores above 90%, then I may adjust the curve downward appropriately.

COURSE OUTLINE

<u>EXAM DATES:</u>	<u>Readings in Text</u>
EXAM 1—February 3	Chapters 1, 2, 3, 9
EXAM 2—March 1	Chapters 4-8
EXAM 3—March 31	Chapters 10-13
EXAM 4—April 28	Chapters 14-19
FINAL--Wednesday, May 4, 2:45 – 4:45 PM (optional)	