

EEB 3894: Current Topics in Ecology & Evolution Syllabus

Instructors:

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Course website:

http://hydrodictyon.eeb.uconn.edu/eebedia/index.php/Current_Topics_in_Ecology_and_Evolution_Spring_2015

username: Charles

password: Darwin

Course Objectives

The purpose of this course is to explore the ecology and evolutionary biology research being conducted by top researchers in these fields. The Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Department invites the highest caliber scientist to UConn as part of a weekly seminar series. Our class will have the opportunity to meet with these researchers in a comfortable, round-table discussion each week. Prior to each discussion, as a group we will examine related scientific literature, learning how to critically read and interpret data from a variety of study systems. Following our discussions with the visiting researchers, we will attend their formal lecture to the Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Department. Students will become critical readers of primary scientific literature, will become familiar with major research avenues in ecology and evolutionary biology, and will become comfortable asking questions and interacting with visiting scientists.

Expectations

This is a discussion-based class centered on the EEB Seminar Series. As such, you are expected to:

- Attend class every week and actively participate in discussion (TLS 171b)
- Attend the EEB seminar every week (4-5pm in BPP 131)
- Read an assigned article from the primary scientific literature every week
- Write a one-page response to the above-mentioned article
- Contact the speaker and lead discussion one week of the semester

Grading

Your grade on this course will be based off of participation, response papers, and leading discussion. The points break down as follows:

Participation		25 pts
Response Papers	5 x 13 (-5, lowest grade dropped)	60 pts
Leading Discussion		15 pts
Total		100 pts

Grades will be assigned in accordance with University protocols along the following guidelines:

A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	0-59

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism and cheating are violations of the student conduct code, and may be punished by failure in the course or, in severe cases, dismissal from the University. For more information, see Section IV of the Student Conduct Code available at the web site of the Dean of Students.