

BIOL 7010

Special Topics in Ecology and Evolution

Spring 2018

Meeting time and place: 500 - 6:50 PM, Thursdays BC 2202

Instructor: Jim Loughry

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Office hours: 9:30-10:30 AM T & R, or any other time by appointment

General course description: This is a seminar course involving a depth examination of current issues in ecology and evolution. You will present a critique of a certain part of that topic that will be the starting point for a full discussion by all members of the seminar. Educational outcomes associated with this course include numbers 1 and 2 as specified in the VSU Biology Department for its Master's program, and general outcomes numbers 3, 4, 5, and 7 as specified by the University.

must be written in the style of a journal article (the Quarterly Review of Biology, Annual Review of Ecology and Systematics provide excellent models) and be exhaustive reviews of the subject. One critical part of this paper will be to provide an extensive bibliography of the literature pertaining to your topic.

3. Peer review: You will provide a 12 page critique of a subset of the review papers submitted. Each paper will be reviewed by 2 other members of the class. Imagine that these papers have been submitted to a scientific journal for possible publication and you have been asked to review them. Your review should emphasize the strengths and weaknesses in each paper and what the author could do to improve it. As the last part of the review, you must assign a numerical grade, based on a maximum total of 50 points. All reviews of all papers are due no later than Tuesday, May 1. I will then send each of you all the reviews of your paper and its averaged reviewer score (individual point scores will remain anonymous).

Grading: Grades will be based on a total of 300 points as described below. In addition, you need to be aware that the University has a punitive attendance policy. The syllabus is available at the following URL: <http://www.biology.berkeley.edu/~jrb/biol101>

## BIOL 7010 Course Schedule

Month	Day	Topic	Discussion Leader
January	11	Organizational meeting	