

Evolution & Ecology BIOL 1342-002 for Science Majors
(Evolution & Ecology with NO LAB, for students in the ASSURE program only)
if you are not enrolled in ASSURE program, use the BIOL 1442 syllabus posted separately!!

M/W 5³⁰ - 6⁵⁰ pm LS 122

Dr. Jill DeVito 817-272-1225 jilldevito@uta.edu

Office Hours: M/W 1⁰⁰-1⁴⁵ M/W 4³⁰-5¹⁵ & by appointment LS 460

** Spring 2016 ** Please note census date Feb 3 and drop deadline Apr 1 **

Description of Course Content: Reviews aspects of organismal biology. Presents current hypotheses concerning the origin and diversification of life on earth. The ecological and behavioral interactions between organisms and their biotic/abiotic environment are considered from an evolutionary perspective.

Student Learning Outcomes: Student will develop a basic understanding of 1) the diversity of extant organisms; 2) the evolutionary mechanisms by which this diversity has arisen and is maintained; 3) ecological interactions within and among species, and between organisms and their environment; and 4) significance of the identity and role of *Homo sapiens* in the context of evolution, ecology, and biodiversity.

This course counts as part of the **Environmental and Sustainability Studies Minor**, a minor that is open to students in all majors, in all colleges. For more information about ESS classes, requirements & advising:

[http://www.uta.edu/english/alaimo/For%20ESS%20Minors%20\(Environmental%20and%20Sustainability%20Studies\).html](http://www.uta.edu/english/alaimo/For%20ESS%20Minors%20(Environmental%20and%20Sustainability%20Studies).html)

Requirement: BIOL 1441 (prerequisite) or permission of the instructor

Required Textbook: Neil Shubin, *Your Inner Fish* ISBN-10: 0307277453

Recommended Text: Campbell et al., *Biology* (10th ed.) ISBN-10: 0321775658

Suggested Reading: Elizabeth Kolbert, *The Sixth Extinction* ISBN-10: 0805092994

Tentative Lecture Schedule – last updated: Jan 13

	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Campbell chapter</u>
Jan 20 W	Evolutionary Theory	22
Jan 25 M	Evolutionary Theory cont'd	22
Jan 27 W	Evolution of Populations	23
Feb 01 M	Evolution of Populations cont'd	23
Feb 03 W	Species & Speciation	24
Feb 08 M	Evolutionary History / Origin of Life	25-27
Feb 10 W	<i>Your Inner Fish</i> (bring film assignment notes to complete in class)	
Feb 15 M	Exam 1 Evolution & Natural Selection (Campbell ch22-27)	
Feb 17 W	Prokaryotes, Protists, Plants, Fungi	28-31
Feb 22 M	Biodiversity teamwork 1 (bring assignment & text or laptop)	
Feb 24 W	Human Evolution	32-33
Feb 29 M	<i>Your Inner Reptile</i> (bring film assignment notes to complete in class)	
Mar 02 W	Animals, Biodiversity teamwork 2 (bring assignment & text or laptop)	34
Mar 07 M	<i>Your Inner Monkey</i> (bring film assignment notes to complete in class)	
Mar 09 W	Exam 2 Biological Diversity & Human Evolution (Campbell ch27-34 & Shubin book/films)	
Mar 14-19	Spring Break (see you next week!)	
Mar 21 M	Behavioral Ecology	51
Mar 23 W	Behavioral Ecology cont'd	51
Mar 28 M	Behavioral Ecology cont'd	51
Mar 30 W	Introduction to Ecology	52
Apr 04 M	Population Ecology	53
Apr 06 W	Community Ecology	54
Apr 11 M	Ecosystems	55
Apr 13 W	Conservation Biology & Sustainability	56
Apr 18 M	guest lecture / special topic (stand by for details)	
Apr 20 W	honors presentations / special topic (stand by for details)	
Apr 25 M	Exam 3 Ecology (ch51-56); honors / special topic / key points are fair game too	
May 02 M	honors presentations / special topic (stand by for details)	
May 04 W	honors presentations / special topic / possible flex day (stand by for details)	
May 09 M	Final Exam (cumulative; optional) 5³⁰ pm	

As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. – Jill DeVito, PhD

Emergency Exit Procedures: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit from the front of this classroom and move toward the nearest exit, which is located straight across

the first floor lobby from LS 122, on the North wall. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.

Lecture Grade:

Midterm Exam 1	= 1/4 of semester grade
Midterm Exam 2	= 1/4 of semester grade
Midterm Exam 3	= 1/4 of semester grade
Cumulative Final	= 1/4 of semester grade

Note two important differences between the policy for 1342 vs. 1442 in this section of the class: 1) there is no lab portion of the grade for 1342 (ASSURE program students) and 2) the final exam is mandatory rather than optional for 1342 (ASSURE program students).

Lecture exams will contain a combination of question styles (e.g., multiple choice, matching, true/false). A typical exam will contain 30-40 questions. It will be your responsibility to bring a crisp, undamaged Scantron form 882 and a No. 2 pencil.

semester grade: A = 89.5-100%, B = 79.5-89.4% C = 69.5-79.4%, D = 59.5-69.4%, F < 59.5%

Honors Credit: Students enrolled for honors credit will have a chance to hone their public speaking skills. (Trust me – this will serve you very well in your future science career endeavors!) To fulfill your commitment, you will 1) sign up for a timeslot for your 15 minute presentation during the first two weeks of class, 2) submit a topic for approval at least three weeks prior to your chosen date, and 3) present a thorough but concise review of your subject material with visual aides (e.g., PowerPoint). You are also encouraged to submit an outline or draft of your talk for review at least one week in advance. Please see me individually for additional questions or for guidance choosing an ideal topic.

Make-up Policies: Make-up exams are possible *at my discretion* within a narrow window of time before and/or after a midterm is scheduled. If you anticipate a schedule conflict, let me know at least one week in advance to arrange a make-up with a Biology Department proctor during their assigned time slot. If you miss an exam unexpectedly, let me know immediately, but *I cannot guarantee that a proctor's time slot will fit conveniently into your schedule*. The sooner you let me know there is a problem, the more likely we can work it out. Alternatively, the cumulative final may be used replace one missed (or low) midterm score.

Attendance: At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. Students who attend class tend to earn higher grades, and I do not recommend taking a class if you anticipate a recurring schedule conflict with work or other responsibilities. Exam dates are listed clearly in this syllabus, so please plan around them.

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study: Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional nine hours per week of their own time in course-related activities (reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.).

Academic Integrity: All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UTA Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

Instructors may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

In the event of a suspected breach of academic integrity (collusion, copying, plagiarism, stealing blank copies of a quiz or exam, referring to notes during a quiz or exam, etc.), you will receive a hearing by the Office of Community Standards. The hearing will be fair to the student, and judgments are based on evidence. If the outcome of the hearing finds you to be responsible for breaking the honor code, the penalty for the incident is left up to the individual instructor. This penalty can range from small (i.e., receive a zero for an individual quiz or assignment), to moderate (i.e., receive a zero for the whole series of quizzes or assignments / receive an exam score of zero), to severe (automatic failing grade for the

course). In the past, I (Dr. DeVito) have tended to dole out penalties in the "moderate" category. However, I reserve the right to choose the penalty according to my judgment in each individual set of circumstances. Also keep in mind that once you have a judgment against you, a repeat offense can result in very severe penalties (at the discretion of the Office of Community Standards) including dismissal from the university.

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.**

Americans With Disabilities Act: If you are a student who requires accommodations in compliance with the ADA, please consult with me at the beginning of the semester. As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Your responsibility is to inform me of the disability at the beginning of the semester and provide me with documentation authorizing the specific accommodation. Student services at UTA include the Office for Students with Disabilities (located in the lower level of the University Center) which is responsible for verifying and implementing accommodations to ensure equal opportunity in all programs and activities.

Title IX: The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law "Title IX" such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX.

Student Support Services: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabus. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Drop for non-payment of tuition: Payment must be received by the term due date or your registration will be cancelled. If your registration is cancelled for non-payment, you may reregister for classes but only if seats are available.

After Hours Safety Escort: The Sam Mav Escort service provides a service to assist students, faculty, staff and campus visitors to reach their destinations after regular business hours. The hours of service are 7:00 pm to 1:00 am daily. 817-272-3381

Those who do not read are no better off than those who cannot
Chinese proverb

The palest ink is better than the strongest memory
Chinese proverb

You'll never plow a field by turning it over in your mind
Irish proverb

The day of the storm is not the day for thatching
Irish proverb