

# Biology 286a - Evolution - Syllabus 2007

Updated 11 September 2007

## Calendar description:

Fundamental issues in evolutionary science will be covered, focusing on evolution by natural selection. Evolutionary processes will be examined, from the mutation of genes to the generation of species. Course topics will include evolution as science, adaptation, sex and sexual selection, species concepts, and human evolution. 3 lecture hours, 0.5 course.

**Prerequisite:** Bio 022 or 023.

**Lectures:** MWF 11:30-12:20, North Campus 101

**Professor:** Dr. Beth MacDougall-Shackleton [emacdoug@uwo.ca](mailto:emacdoug@uwo.ca), phone x81206.

Office: 208 Staging Building. Office hours: Mon, Tue, Thur, 8:30-10:00.

You may also email me for an appointment outside of office hours, talk to me immediately after class, or contact one of the TA's. If you don't understand something during lecture, please stop me and ask me to clarify.

## Teaching assistants:

Yong Seok An [yan4@uwo.ca](mailto:yan4@uwo.ca), Office TBA, x 86594. Office hours TBA.

Cherise Poo [cpoo@uwo.ca](mailto:cpoo@uwo.ca), 339 WSC, x 86467. Office hours Tue, Wed 9:30-10:30.

**Course website:** <http://instruct.uwo.ca/biology/286a/>

Follow the link on the website to the schedule of lecture topics and suggested reading. The lecture schedule page will also offer pdf outlines for each lecture (posted the day before class). You are encouraged to print these off to help with your note-taking, but these outlines are NOT a sufficient substitute for coming to class!

## Recommended text:

Evolutionary Analysis (4<sup>th</sup> ed.) by Freeman & Herron. 2007 (Pearson Prentice Hall). Available in the Bookstore or on reserve at Taylor Library.

Used copies of the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition are also acceptable, but note that the order of chapters differs somewhat. Recommended readings refer to chapters in the 4<sup>th</sup> edition.

## Evaluation:

**Two midterm exams (25% each), one final exam (50%).** All are closed-book, multiple choice format (except makeup exams... see below). Please record your answers carefully onto the scantron sheet, as I cannot give credit for transfer errors. Exams may be analyzed by 'cheating analysis' software to check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns.

**Midterm 1: Wed Oct 3, 7-8:30 pm. Midterm 2: Sun Nov 4, 2-3:30 pm. Locations TBA.**

**Final exam:** TBA (December exam period)

Midterm 2 will include ONLY material covered after midterm 1 (it is not cumulative). The final exam will be cumulative. That is, it will cover mainly material presented after midterm 2, but approximately 1/3 of the questions will be based on earlier course content, or require integrating concepts learned throughout the course.

### **Should you buy the textbook?**

Lectures will follow the format of the textbook pretty closely. The readings may help you to better understand material covered in lecture, and to catch up on any missed classes. However, exams are based entirely on lecture material.

### **Email Policy:**

Should you need to contact me about missed exams, schedule an appointment if you cannot make my regular office hours, or other details of course administration, email is the best way to do so. Please send emails from your UWO account and **include 'Biology 286' in the subject line**, otherwise my spam filter may eat your message like sweet, sweet candy.

Should you have questions regarding course content, or interest-based questions, I encourage you to talk to me (or one of the TAs) in person. Explaining evolutionary biology often requires diagrams, hand-waving and interactive back-and-forthing, so email is not an effective medium.

**If for some reason you must ask a question about course content via email, please send it to the TAs. Students with surnames A-M should email Yong Seok, students with surnames N-Z should email Cherise.** (However, all students may visit either TAs' office hours, or my own). If your TA is stumped by your email, he or she will forward it to me.

### **Policy on missed exams:**

If you must miss an exam due to medical or personal reasons, you must present the appropriate documentation to the Office of the Dean of Science within 48 hours of the missed exam. You must also contact me by email within 48 hours of the missed exam. Without approval from the Office of the Dean of Science, a grade of 0% will be awarded for any missed exam(s).

There will be one make-up opportunity offered for each exam (only for students with approved reasons for missing the original exam), typically within a week of the original scheduled exam. **Make-ups will typically be a different format than the regular exam (e.g. short answer or essay).**

Students who miss both the original and the make-up midterm, and who have a legitimate reason for so doing (approved by the Office of the Dean of Science) will have their grades redistributed (25/25/50 → 33/67). Grades will typically NOT be redistributed for students who write an exam but later present documentation that they were ill at the time of the exam.

Students who miss both the original and the make-up final exam, due to a legitimate reason (approved by the Office of the Dean of Science) must make arrangements for an oral exam in January, to assess their mastery of the course material.