Guidelines for Research Paper

Writing this paper will familiarize you with current research on an evolutionary question, while simultaneously providing you with an opportunity to practice finding and interpreting literature and to get feedback on your writing skills. Papers are due Wednesday, October 29 at 10:20 a.m. (Note: Late papers will be dropped in grade.)

General Submission Format Instructions

• Papers should be computer printed in a 10 or 12-point font like this one (Times New Roman), double-spaced between lines with 1-inch margins all around.

• Your topic should be addressed in about 5-6 pages, not including the References page. We would like you to present organized, cogent responses, so please stay within this page limit.

• Please indicate the topic of the being addressed as the title of your paper, and in a header in the upper right corner of each page, provide the your last name, your recitation time (e.g. Tues 8:00), and number your pages.

• Do not use a cover page, plastic binder, folder, etc.

Due Dates and Grading

You will turn in your assignment in two formats on the due date indicated: a hard copy your TA in lecture that morning and the electronic copy to the Dropbox link in Carmen.

Please note: Your assignments in the two formats (hard copy and electronic copy to the Turnitin Dropbox link in Carmen) are due at 10:20 am on the day due. Assignments are considered submitted on time only when both formats have been submitted on time. Late submission of one of the formats (hard copy or electronic copy) will result in a penalty of 10% per day.

Papers will be evaluated on the following dimensions. Your TA will use the attached rubric when grading:

a) Understanding of evolutionary concepts - Your papers will be evaluated on the extent to which you appropriately use and define the different ideas and concepts from course and the particular papers you cite. To clarify, you should use and explain specific concepts, terms, and research findings to support your arguments. Your papers should demonstrate your understanding of principles, issues, and
implications of the theory and research presented in the articles. Please cite your sources using the style used in the journal Evolution, for both your in-text citations and references section. Use direct quotations very sparingly, with no more than one direct quotations per paper.

b) Quality of writing - Your essays should be clearly written and easy to follow. It is important to write with correct grammar, spelling, paragraph construction, etc. Please make sure you include introduction and conclusion paragraphs that address the importance of your topic and implications for future research. Do not worry too much about an overlooked typo (it happens to everyone), but I do expect you to spellcheck and proofread.

Written work in evolutionary biology usually follows the style of a particular journal. Please see a recent paper for the journal Evolution for formatting of citations.

Direct quotations should be used very sparingly, if at all. Over reliance on regurgitating the words of another author does not indicate your own understanding of the material. In general, it is preferred that you paraphrase the ideas of others, and reserve direct quotations only for situations in which paraphrasing would result in loss of the author’s intended meaning.

For each paper, the References section begins on a new page at the end of the paper, with that heading centered at the top of the page. Include the full reference information there for the sources you cited within the body of your paper. Although it is not required to refer in your paper to the work of outside authors not assigned in this class, if you should do so, please give the full reference information for that source in the References section.