

**BIOL 7010**

**Special Topics in Ecology and Evolution**

**Fall 2015**

**Meeting time and place:** 5:00 - 6:50 PM, Mondays, BC 1202

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**2. Review Paper:** Each of you must write a review paper about some topic related to the chapters in the textbooks. You may use one or more of your presentations as the starting point for this paper, but you are not obligated to do so. You must get your topic approved by me no later than midterm (**Thursday, October 8**) and all papers must be turned in by **5 PM, Monday, November 23**. Topics will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, so if you have a particular area you wish to cover, sign up soon. Papers must be written in the style of a journal article (the *Quarterly Review of Biology* and *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 1-2 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 reviews 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 dead day (**Tuesday, December 8**). 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 350 points as described below. In addition, you need to be aware that there is a punitive attendance policy. The seminar requires active participation by all of you. So, if you are not here, the class will suffer dramatically. Consequently, for each unexcused absence, you will lose one letter grade off your final grade.

Presentations:	150 points
General participation:	50 points
Review paper:	100 points (calculated as the average of the peer-review scores + 50 possible points from my own evaluation of your paper)
Peer review critiques	50 points (based on my evaluation of all the reviews you submit)
Total	350

Evaluating the above is admittedly subjective. I will start the seminar assuming everyone has an A. So long as you do your job, that will not ch

turn in your paper, then you automatically fail the course. Late submissions of any assignments will be penalized at the rate of 10% per day.

Final grades will be based on the following point totals:

A = 315 350  
 B = 280 314  
 C = 245 279

