

Evolutionary Biology – Biol 5250 – Fall 2017

MWF 9:30 - 10:20 BNR 314 Prerequisite: Genetics CRN: 40705

Instructor: Frank Messina, frank.messina@usu.edu

Office hours: BNR 211, Wed 1 – 3 PM & by appointment

Writing TA: Alex Rego, alexandre.rego@aggiemail.usu.edu

Office hours: BNR 301, by appointment

The **course website** is on **Canvas**, and includes **sample exams**, **genetics problems**, **lecture power points**, and **essay resources**.

<u>Dates:</u>		<u>% of Grade</u>
1st Midterm:	Friday, September 29	20%
Essay Outline:	Friday, October 6	10%
2nd Midterm:	Friday, November 3	20%
Final Essay:	Wednesday, November 15	25%
Final exam:	Wednesday, Dec. 13, 9:30 AM	25%

The outline and final essay are due ***at the beginning of class. We will not accept late submissions.***

Textbook: *None.* If you wish to buy or borrow one on your own, I recommend Bergstrom & Dugatkin 2016. *Evolution*, 2nd Ed.

Grading: ≥ 93%: **A** 90-92: **A-** 87-89: **B+** 83-86: **B** 80-82: **B-**
77-79: **C+** 73-76: **C** 70-72: **C-** 66-69: **D+** 55-65: **D** <55: **F**

Lecture Topics: **1** - Origin of genetic variation **2** - Inbreeding & genetic drift **3** - Gene flow **4** - Natural selection & adaptation
5 - Quantitative genetics **6** - Sexual selection **7** - Kin selection
8 - Speciation **9** - Systematics **10** - Paleontology
11 - Evolution & development **12** - Human evolution