Course Objectives:
- Overview the fast-growing field of evolutionary development (evo-devo)
- Compare early development across the tree of life
- Discuss developmental variation’s role in natural selection and evolution
- Explore how the environment can affect early development and evolution
- Read, digest, and discuss scientific studies
- Analyze and interpret data

Course format

Monday:
Asynchronous online materials
Materials will be posted the Friday prior
Written responses to assignments due at 11:59 PM Monday

Wednesday:
Synchronous Zoom discussions 2:30–3:20 PM
Papers for Wednesday’s discussion will be posted Monday morning

What will we learn?

Instructor information

Instructor: Dr. Molly Womack
Email: molly.womack@usu.edu
Office: LSB 335 (but Zoom meetings are the default this semester)
Grading

- 20% written reactions/responses
- 10% final project presentation
- 20% final project
- 10% discussion facilitation
- 40% discussion participation

How to participate in discussions

- come prepared
  - read the material thoroughly
  - come with questions and thoughts
- be present
  - turn off phone notifications
  - minimize other computer windows
- respect others
  - let others finish their thoughts
  - leave space for others to join-in
  - add to other’s points instead of contradicting or dismissing them

How to facilitate discussions

1. Choose a week to facilitate (one or two people will facilitate each week)

2. Meet with your facilitation partner and decide on one scientific paper to discuss
   - you can select from the suggested papers (see Canvas) or choose your own
   - send paper choices to Dr. Womack by 11:59 PM the Friday before your discussion

3. Design the discussion format
   - you have to come up with an ORIGINAL format (not used by others yet)
   - get creative and think of what would spark the best discussion or get new voices heard

4. Come up with at least 5 discussion prompts/questions
   - send these prompts along with your discussion format plan to Dr. Womack by 11:59 PM the Monday prior to discussion

Projects

Write a review paper or research article on any topic related to evolutionary development.

Everyone should have an approved project topic by Sept. 25th.

You can initiate conversations with Dr. Womack by email or Zoom.

*Graduate students must include data analysis in your project.
Undergraduates can incorporate data synthesis and analysis, but it is optional.