

# BIOL 5250: Evolution

Spring 2020

## Course information:

**Prerequisites:** Genetics

**Credits:** 3

**Teaching method:** face-to-face; online after 3/18/2020; lecture slides, videos, discussions, exams, and course information posted on Canvas

**Time:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM

**Location:** Life Science Building (LSB) room 231

**Final exam:** Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 1:30-3:20 PM

**Textbook:** Evolutionary Analysis

NOTE: this is a communication intensive (CI) course

**Instructor:** Amy Springer, biology PhD candidate

Office location: LSB 343

Office hours: Mondays 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM and Thursdays 2:45 PM - 4:45 PM

Email: [amy.springer@aggiemail.usu.edu](mailto:amy.springer@aggiemail.usu.edu)

**Teaching assistant:** Morgan Dunn

Office location: LSB 202

Office hours: Tuesdays 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM and Wednesdays 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Email: [morgan.dunn@aggiemail.usu.edu](mailto:morgan.dunn@aggiemail.usu.edu)

## Writing Fellows:

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## Course objectives:

By the end of this course you will be able to:

- Describe the major theories and ideas that brought the field of evolution to where it is today
- Effectively communicate evolutionary ideas to various audiences (both scientific and general)
- Interpret and explain the contribution and of evolutionary theory to real-world applications such as medicine and conservation
- Use critical thinking skills and logic to form sound evolutionary hypotheses, predict potential evolutionary outcomes, and assess the quality of scientific writing

## Assessment:

Your grade for this course will be determined by your performance in the following categories: assignments (55%), in-class activities or quizzes (10%), and exams (35%). All late work will be subject to a 50% grade reduction per day unless otherwise discussed beforehand. A tentative schedule of major assessments is shown below, but all deadlines, assignments, and other details are subject to change with fair warning.

<b>Assignment 1: De-mystifying Evolution Paper (300 pts)</b>		
Fri, 01/17/2020	Paper topic	(5 pts)
Tues, 01/28/2020	Outline	(15 pts)
Thurs, 02/09/2020	First draft	(30 pts)
Thurs, 02/20/2020	W.F. response	(20 pts)
	Second draft	(60 pts)
Sat, 02/22/2020	Peer review	(30 pts)
Fri, 02/28/2020	P.R. response	(20 pts)
	Final draft	(120 pts)

<b>Assignment 2: Scientific Grant Proposal (250 pts)</b>		
Fri, 03/13/2020	Paper topic	(10 pts)
Fri, 03/27/2020	Outline	(20 pts)
Sun, 04/05/2020	First draft	(40 pts)
Thurs, 04/16/2020	W.F. response	(20 pts)
	Second draft	(100 pts)
Fri, 04/24/2020	Panel Reflection	(30 pts)
	Group assessments	(30 pts)

<b>Exams (350 pts)</b>		
Tues, 02/11/2020	Exam 1	(100 pts)
Tues, 03/31/2020	Exam 2	(100 pts)
Tues, 04/28/2020	Final exam	(150 pts)

### Grading scale:

Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
Percentage	≥93.0	≥90.0 <93.0	≥87.0 <90.0	≥83.0 <87.0	≥80.0 <83.0	≥77.0 <80.0	≥73.0 <77.0	≥70.0 <73.0	≥67.0 <70.0	≥60.0 <67.0	<60.0

This course will use the standard USU grading scale shown above. Please see <https://cidi.usu.edu/topics/procedural-faq> for additional information about USU course policies.

### Other policies:

- Because we are all adults with our own commitments, responsibilities, families, and lives, it is my philosophy that you should have the right and responsibility to govern your own attendance. I encourage full attendance of lectures, but I will trust that the best person to decide what you need to do with your time is *you*. Similarly, I do not believe it is my job to police other adults regarding their use of technology. I simply ask that we all be accommodating and respectful. Life is short, things happen, and we're all doing the best we can.
- I will respond to all emails I receive, but I will not guarantee a response before 8 am, after 8 pm, on weekends, or the day an assignment is due. If your message is urgent, it would help me to have this explicitly noted in the subject for ease of sorting. Thank you in advance for your patience, and for your help keeping everything organized!

### Students with disabilities:

If you are in need of assistance or accommodations, please feel welcome to discuss any concerns you may have with me. As your instructor, it is my job to help you succeed and ensure everyone has equal access to the course. However, speaking with me personally is not required to gain access to accommodations. If you are unsure of whether you are eligible for accommodations, please see <https://www.usu.edu/drc/> or contact your DRC coordinator for more information. All accommodations are coordinated through the Disability Resource Center in Room 101 of the University Inn, 797-2444 voice, 797-0740 TTY, or toll free at 1-800-259-2966.