

Course Syllabus

Date	Topic	Reading	
Jan.	20	Introduction to Evolution	Ch 1
		Linking time, geology, and life	Ch 2
	27	Evolution and Natural selection	Ch 6
	Evidence for Evolution		
Feb	3	Genetics: Chromosomes, Mitosis, Meiosis, Genetics: Mendelian segregation and assortment	Ch 3
	10	Generating variation: mutation and recombination Generating variation: gene duplication, rearrangements	Ch 8
	17	EXAM 1 Levels of selection	Ch 12, pp 189-190
	24	Selection models Speciation: concepts and isolating mechanisms	Ch 7 Ch 9
Mar.	3	Speciation: Examples from nature, adaptive radiation Species interactions	Ch 10
	10	Co-evolution among species Adaptations: life histories	Ch 11
	17	EXAM 2 Social behavior	Ch 12, pp 183-189
	24	SPRING BREAK	
	31	Early history of life: molecules Early history of life: metabolic systems and cells	Ch 4
	Apr	7	Diversity of life: historical events Diversity of life: organisms today
14		Extinction: concepts Extinction: case studies	Ch 13
21		EXAM 3 Macroevolutionary patterns	Ch 12, pp 190-201
28		Primates, hominids, and hominins The genus Homo and its wanderings	Ch 14, pp 229-244 Pp 245, 249-57, 264-67
May		5	Human Evolution Evolution of culture and behavior
	12	FINAL EXAM	

Class Notes

1) **Text:** *An Introduction to Biological Evolution*, Kenneth V. Kardong, McGraw-Hill.

2) **Grading:** Grades will be assigned on the basis of a 300 point total, derived from 3 hour-long exams and a final. The grading scale listed below is tentative and may be curved at the option of the instructor. The lowest exam score will be dropped. This may include the final exam; should you be satisfied with your grade after the first three hourly exams you may choose to drop the final exam and need not come to it. The final grading scale will be set after the third exam and will not change as a result of the final exam, so that you may make an informed decision about whether to come to the final. Taking the final thus can raise your grade but cannot lower your grade.

Tentative scale:	90 - 100% (270-300): A
	80 - 89% (240-269): B
	65 - 79% (195-239): C
	55 - 65% (165-194): D
	< 55% (< 165) : F

Point Scoring:	Exam 1	100
	Exam 2	100
	Exam 3	100
	<u>Final</u>	<u>100</u>

Drop Lowest Score

SEMESTER TOTAL: 300

3) **Exams:** Exams will be given during the first lecture hour. Each exam will be followed by a full lecture. Exams will contain material from both the readings and the lectures. Each exam will have a mix of formats that may include definition, multiple choice, problems, and essays. The final will have a comprehensive section (~ 50 points) and a section focusing on material from the last two weeks of class (~50 points). Make-up exams will not be given; if you miss an exam you must take all remaining exams and lose the option to take 4 and count the 3 highest grades. In the event of a medical emergency that results in your missing an exam, please contact the instructor by phone or email as soon as possible.

4) **Attendance:** Attendance is now mandatory in all 1000- and 2000- level classes. Role now must be taken at each class meeting, and 2 points will be deducted for each absence from the 15 regular meetings. Please note that my policy is quite firm: **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO SEE THAT YOUR ATTENDANCE IS CORRECTLY RECORDED.** I will call the roll at the beginning of class, give out tests, or hand back assignments or tests. Should you not be present to answer when your name is called, or to

receive a test or a returned assignment, you will be marked absent. If you come late, it is your responsibility to see me personally and to make sure that your attendance is marked correctly. After class is dismissed, no changes will be made in attendance records. Should you fall below a grade cut-off due to a mistaken attendance record, that is not my problem. No exceptions will be made. Note that you must continue to attend class whether or not you elect to take the final. Lack of attendance will result in loss of points and possibly a lower grade for the course.

5) Student Learning Objectives: After completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Distinguish between the scientific fact of evolution and the theories proposed to account for evolution.
2. Trace the historical roots of evolutionary thought in Western culture.
3. Explain the genetic bases of evolutionary change.
4. Explain the forces promoting evolutionary change and the origin of species and higher taxa.
5. Describe the historical patterns of evolution of molecules and organisms, including humans and culture, as they have been reconstructed by evolutionary biologists.
5. Analyze novel problems in adaptation and evolution and, knowing the major principles of genetics and evolutionary biology, predict consequences and evaluate potential responses to these problems.
6. Concisely describe, analyze, and propose solutions to problems in essay format.

6) Academic honesty policy: Cheating of any kind will result in a grade of F for the assignment and will be referred to the Assistant Dean for Judicial and Student Assistance for disciplinary action. For more information on University policies regarding plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty, see the UNO Student Policy Manual at <http://www.uno.edu/~stlf/>.

Final drop date is April 13, 2005.

Special note on Disability Policy

It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations.

This material is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact: Coordinator, Disabled Student Services, 260 University Center, 286-6222 (voice/TDD) or 286-3975 (fax).