

## **Advanced Ecology and Evolutionary Biology MPBio/Bio5453**

Welcome to a course geared specifically to get new students in the EEB program up to speed on the scope of research in EEB at OU as well as developing skills toward being an effective scholar and teacher.

### **Instructor**

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### **Format**

The course meets from 6:00 to 8:00 PM or so Thursday nights in Sutton 312. About half the weeks the format will consist of a guest lecture by a member of the OU EEB community, followed by a discussion on papers assigned for that class period. These papers will be posted on D2L by the preceding Friday 5:00PM. The rest of the classes will be workshops devoted to developing the basic tools of academic science--reading, writing, teaching, and thinking.

### **Grading**

Grading is S/U. To receive an S you must meet the following requirements

**Attendance:** You are expected to attend each Thursday night class. I allow one excused absence ("excused" meaning I hear about it ahead of time) for the usual reasons (illness, family emergency, or research trip).

**Participation:** If we have a guest scholar, please print out four discussion questions for our speaker based on his/her work or the paper assigned. I will ask 2-3 members of the class to start the discussion drawing on their questions.

**Exercises:** On a weekly basis there will also likely be some exercise toward developing your skills as a scientist. These assignments will be turned in on D2L, posted as a comment on GTDA (see below), or simply brought to class, depending on the nature of the exercise.

**Two Page Grant Proposal:** An NSF Graduate Research Fellowship is a highly competitive grant that offers considerable support in your first years as a grad student. While it is open only to U. S. citizens, its two-page format is common in academia (e.g., for National Geographic Society, and many in-house funding opportunities). It is also short enough to represent an excellent opportunity to put many of the tools targeted in this -- reading, writing, teaching, graphing, as well as time management -- to good use. **The deadline for this two page proposal is 1 November.** More information will be provided in class.

### **Two websites: D2L and Getting Things Done in Academia**

The university runs a class-organization website called D2L accessible through

the portal Ozone (<https://ozone.ou.edu/cp/home/displaylogin>). I will use D2L as a mailing list, deposit papers there, and use it as a place for "secure" discussions.

I also run a public blog called Getting Things Done in Academia (<http://eebatou.wordpress.com/> abbreviated as GTDA). This blog is dedicated to the tools and philosophies underlying the academic life. It contains a lot of useful information and I will be posting on it throughout the semester. I will often assign you to read and comment on new or past posts. This is an experiment in social media. To comment on a WordPress blog, you need an account, which can use your real name or a pseudonym.

### **Required information about you for the EEB Student Web Page**

As you are member of the EEB Graduate Program, please email me the following, using the subject heading "For the EEB Web Page"

- 1) A photo of you that you like and don't mind plastering on the World Wide Web. This should emphasize your head and shoulders.
- 2) An approximately 50 word bio-blurb about your interests and background.
- 3) Whose lab you are working out of (i.e., your advisor)
- 4) Your web page and your lab web page.

## **Schedule**

We are still finalizing guest scholar visits.

23Aug--No Class

30 Aug--Life Planning Panel Discussion

6 Sept--Time Management and Reading the Literature

13 Sept--Ingo Schlupp

20 Sept--Writing Workshop

- ☐ 27 Sept--(Guest Scholar)
- ☐ 4 Oct-- (Guest Scholar)
- ☐ 11 Oct--Grant Writing Workshop
- ☐ 18 Oct--(Guest Scholar)
- ☐ 25 Oct--(Guest Scholar)
- ☐ 1 Nov--(Guest Scholar)
- ☐ 8 Nov--(Guest Scholar)
- ☐ 15 Nov--Teaching/Presentation Workshop
- ☐ 22 Nov--Thanksgiving
- ☐ 29 Nov--(Guest Scholar)
- ☐ 6 Dec--TBA