

**BIOL 2343 -001 (Evolution, Ecology and Biodiversity)  
Summer II 2008**

**Professor:** Dr. Jeffery P. Demuth, Ph.D.

**Office Number:** LS453

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**Office Hours:** 12:30-1:00 M-Th (and by appointment)

**Time and Place of Class Meetings:** M.-Th. 10:30-12:30 (LS 119) July 7 – August 6

**Description of Course Content:** Reviews significant aspects of organismal biology and presents current hypotheses concerning the origin and diversification of life on earth. The ecological and behavioral interactions between organisms and their biotic/abiotic environments are considered from an evolutionary perspective.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Students will develop a basic understanding of the 1) evolutionary mechanisms responsible for adaptation and diversity, 2) biotic and abiotic factors that influence the distribution and abundance of extant organisms. 3) diversity of organisms and relationships among them

**Prerequisite:** BIOL 1441 (or permission from instructor)

**Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials:** *Biology* (7<sup>th</sup> Ed) by Campbell and Reece is a recommended reference but will not be required. Relevant chapters will be highlighted by the professor in class. Other Introductory Biology texts (equivalent to the recommended one above) may also be used, but students will be responsible for determining the appropriate readings within those texts.

Students will be required to print out class notes that will be provided online at:

<http://www.uta.edu/faculty/demuth/2343>

**Descriptions of major assignments and examinations with due dates:** There will be 10 question exams at the beginning of 10 class meetings (5 multiple choice – 1pt each, 5 short answer – 3pts each). Also, for students will be required to bring in 2 outside readings per week (e.g. news/magazine/online article) of their own choosing. Articles should overlap with course content. We will discuss the articles in class and students will be awarded points based on participation. Students will be allowed to miss one article. The final exam will consist of one essay question and 3-5 oral questions. The final will be worth a maximum of 50 points.

**Grading Policy:**

Exams – 10 x 20pts each	= 200 possible
Articles – 10 x 5pts each	= 50 possible
Participation – 20 x 1pts	= 20 possible
Final -	= <u>50 possible</u>
	= 320 total points

≥ 90%	= A:	≥ 288
89-80%	= B:	287 – 256
79-70%	= C:	255 – 224
69-60%	= D:	223 – 192
≤ 59%	= F:	≤ 167

**Attendance Policy:** Because this is a very condensed course format and a significant proportion of points are awarded on a daily basis, failure to attend class will result in a reduction of ~1 letter grade.

**Make-up Exam Policy:** There will be NO MAKEUP EXAMS.

## **Important University Policies:**

**Drop Policy:** If you decide to drop this course (or any other, for that matter) you must obtain a drop slip from the departmental undergraduate advisor's office fill it out, have the instructor of the course you wish to drop sign the slip and return it to the advisor's office. If you simply stop attending class without first completing and returning to the undergraduate advisor a drop slip you remain enrolled in the class and will receive a grade of F. Please refer to deadlines listed in the academic calendar.

**Americans With Disabilities Act:** The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 - The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of federal legislation entitled *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability). Also, you may visit the Office for Students with Disabilities in room 102 of University Hall or call them at (817) 272-3364.

**Academic Integrity:** It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

"Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Section 2.2)

**Student Support Services Available:** The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. These programs include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

**Drop for non-payment of tuition:** Payment must be received by the term due date of May 20, 2008 or your registration will be cancelled. If your registration is cancelled for non-payment, you may reregister for classes but only if seats are available.

**Bomb Threats:** If anyone is tempted to call in a bomb threat, be aware that UTA will attempt to trace the phone call and prosecute all responsible parties. Every effort will be made to avoid cancellation of presentations/tests caused by bomb threats. Unannounced alternate sites will be available for these classes. Your instructor will make you aware of alternate class sites in the event that your classroom is not available.

### **MavMail:**

The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University email address as an official means of communication with students. Through the use of email, UT-Arlington is able to provide students with relevant and timely information, designed to facilitate student success. In particular, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation may be sent to students through email.

All students are assigned an email account and information about activating and using it is available at [www.uta.edu/email](http://www.uta.edu/email). New students (first semester at UTA) are able to activate their email account 24 hours after registering for courses. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active as long as a student is enrolled at UT-Arlington. Students are responsible for checking their email regularly.