

Organismal Biology Lab Syllabus

Coordinator: Dr. Andrea Aspbury
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Office Hours: by appointment
Laboratory Room: SUPP 433

You are responsible for checking Blackboard (both lecture and lab and your e-mail DAILY)

Lab Attendance: Attendance in laboratory is Mandatory. No make-up labs will be conducted. Email Dr. Aspbury about any questions related to lab.

Lab and Course Credit: Lab is worth 30% of your grade and lecture is worth 70%. In the lab there are 300 points that will be distributed according to the following guidelines:

Quizzes (N = 6 each worth 5 points) =	30 points
Article Summaries (N = 5, each worth 3 points) =	15 points
Article Discussions (N = 5, each worth 3 points) =	15 points
Homework assignments (N = 6 weeks each worth 10 points) =	60 points
Paper # 1 =	45 points
Presentation # 1 =	30 points
Paper # 2 =	60 points
Presentation # 2 =	45 points

Academic honesty: We expect students to behave with integrity. Students found cheating will receive a score of zero for that assignment and will be subject to disciplinary action as specified in University code (<http://www.txstate.edu/effective/upps/upps-07-10-01.html>). Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failing the course and dismissal from the University.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be held the first 10-15 min of lab. Quizzes will cover material up to and including the lab of the week. One quiz grade will be dropped. If you miss a class, this will be your dropped quiz grade. **NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES!**

Article Summaries/Discussions: will be due and take place for 15-20 minutes after the quizzes. Your article summary shall consist of a paragraph (do not exceed one page) that summarizes the hypotheses tested, the methods used and the general conclusions. Your discussion grade will be based on your active role in discussing your impressions of the paper. At the end of each article summary, you must list two comments or questions that you had about the paper for discussion. Your lab instructor will provide further instruction concerning this aspect of your grade.

Please Note these important dates: 3 February: last day to drop a course with W assigned. After this date, you can drop the class. However, if you are NOT passing the class based on the points accumulated when you want to drop, you will receive an F (**NO EXCEPTIONS**). 20 April: last day to drop a course with W assigned if you are passing the class or F if you are not passing

To do and not to do

DO ask as many questions in lab as you would like. Participate freely.

DO e-mail your IA with questions as you're studying.

DO NOT send your IA or the lab coordinator an e-mail without addressing us properly, and please include "please" and "thank you." Thank you.

DO study your notes and book after each lab period.

DO NOT e-mail us with questions without first examining this syllabus for answers.

DO NOT e-mail us with requests to average your grade for you, to determine what you need on test to pass, or to give you some kind of extra credit assignment.

DO try to enjoy the lab and recognize that biology is central to everything you are.

Reading list

Lab Exercises for Organismal Biology Edited by Caitlin Gabor, PhD

A Short Guide to Writing about Biology, by Jan Pechenik (5th Ed Addison-Wesley-Longmann)

Articles from library: Access from TX STATE journals webpage. You will have to (1) search for the journal (in italics in the list below), then (2) find the appropriate volume number (in bold face in the list below) and year, (3) print or download (some will be full-text HTML, while others will be in PDF format).

30 January: Miller, T.E. 1995. Evolution of *Brassica rapa* L. Populations in intra and interspecific competition. *Evolution* **49**: 1125-1133

13 February: Brown, C. R. and Brown, M. B. 1998. Intense natural selection on body size and wing and tail asymmetry in cliff swallows during severe weather. *Evolution* **52**: 1461-1475

27 February: Reilly, S. M., R. W Manning, C. C. Nice, and M. R. J. Forstner. 2005. Systematics of isolated populations of short-tailed shrews (Soricidae: Blarina) in Texas. *Journal of Mammalogy* **86**: 887-894

20 March: Gabor, C. R. 1999. Association patterns of sailfin mollies (*Poecilia latipinna*): alternative hypotheses. *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology* **46**:333-340

3 April: Witte, K. and M. J. Ryan. 1998. Male body length influences mate choice copying in the sailfin molly, *Poecilia latipinna*. *Behavioral Ecology* **9**: 534-539.

Tentative Laboratory Schedule

Week of	SUBJECT	Readings	due	Paper Discussion
Jan. 16	NO LAB			
Jan. 23	Intraspecific Competition Part 1 (set-up) Introduction to Statistics	SG: Ch 1, 2 LB: pp 2-18		
Jan. 30	Transmission Genetics in Corn	SG: Ch 3 LB: pp 22-33	HW #1	Miller 1995
Feb. 6	Population Genetics	LB: pp 36-42	HW #2	
Feb. 13	Evolution by Natural Selection	LB: pp 44-48	HW #3	Brown & Brown 1998
Feb. 20	Scientific Writing and StatView Tutorial	SG: Ch 4, 8 LB: pp 53-63 & App. 2	HW #4	
Feb. 27	Phylogenetic Reconstruction Intraspecific Competition Part 2	LB: pp 64-81	HW #5	Reilly et al. 2005
Mar. 6	Guppy Behavior Part 1 Intraspecific Competition Part 3	SG: CH 5 LB: 84-92	HW #6	
Mar. 13	NO LAB - SPRING BREAK			
Mar. 20	Intraspecific Competition Presentations	SG: Ch 13 LB: App. 3 & p 93		Gabor 1999
Mar. 27	Guppy Behavior Part 2	LB: pp 94-95	Paper #1	
Apr. 3	Guppy Behavior Part 3			Witte and Ryan 1998
Apr. 10	Guppy Behavior Part 4	SG: Ch 5		
Apr. 17	Guppy Behavior Presentations	SG: Ch 8, 13 LB: p 96 & App. 3		
Apr. 24	NO LAB		Paper #2	

LB: *Lab Exercises for Organismal Biology*

SG: *A Short Guide to Writing about Biology*