

## Syllabus

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**Professor:** Dr. Steven J. Wolf

**Office:** Naraghi 269

**Office Hours:** MW10:15 - 11:15 am; F 7:45 - 8:45, and by appointment.

**Phone:** (209) 202-3093. Please contact your instructor via email unless it is an emergency.

**Email:** [swolf@csustan.edu](mailto:swolf@csustan.edu) Email is for setting up an appointment, or for questions with very short answers. Please ask complex questions during lecture or office hours. Emails without "Biol 4400" in the subject will not be acknowledged. Questions regarding grades and/or those answered on the syllabus will not be acknowledged.

**Lecture:** MWF 9:05 - 10:03 a.m. in S-137.

**Course Prerequisite:** Introductory Genetics, Biol 3350 or equivalent.

**Text:** [Evolution, 2nd. Ed. by Futuyma](#). I also highly recommend [Denying Evolution: Creationism, Scientism, and the Nature of Science](#), a very readable and entertaining paperback by Massimo Pigliucci.

**Class Website:** <http://arnica.csustan.edu/biol4400>

**Lecture notes:** Click here (password protected). Do not give the username/password to anyone not in the class. If you do so no more lecture notes will be provided and you will have to take your own notes.

Username: \_\_\_\_\_ Password: \_\_\_\_\_

**Announcements:** be sure to check the [course announcements page](#) frequently for important announcements or assignments.

### Important Dates:

March 12 - Furlough day - watch ID trail videos and turn in worksheet (see below).

March 17 - turn in ID trial worksheet.

March 15 - Last day to drop the course.

March 31 - Cesar Chavez Day - no class.

April 5 - 9 - Spring break, no classes.

April 28 - Furlough day, no assignment to make up for length of March 12 assignment.

May 14 - Furlough day, assignment TBA.

May 24 - Furlough day, assignment TBA.

May 28 - Exam 3, 8:30 - 9:30 am.

**Furloughs:** Due to budget cuts imposed upon the CSU, Faculty and Staff have been forced to take unpaid days off (furloughs) and their pay has been reduced by 10%. No classes will be held on furlough days; however, you are responsible for the assigned materials on these days.

**March 12 Furlough Day Assignment:** Watch 12 videos on [Intelligent Design trial](#) and hand in worksheet worth 10 pts. by **March 17 at 9:05 am**. Questions from this material may occur on the first exam.

**Question Worksheet for Intelligent Design (ID) trial:** [Click here](#) to download as a pdf file. Requires free [Acrobat Reader](#).

### **Student Learning Goals:**

- Students will be able demonstrate knowledge of the intellectual significance of the scientific theory of evolution.
- Students will be able to distinguish between different processes (with evidence and examples of these processes) that lead to evolutionary change in organisms (i.e., natural selection, mutation, recombination, gene flow, genetic drift, sexual selection).
- Students will be able to communicate examples of evidence for evolution from genetics, biochemistry, molecular biology, paleontology, comparative anatomy, biogeography, and physical anthropology.
- Students will be able to construct an historical timeline of people, places and events that shaped understanding and development of the modern theory of evolution and its processes.
- Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of relationships between evolution and biological diversity through scientific understanding of speciation events and phylogenetic relationships of fossils and living organisms.
- Students will have enhanced understanding of the peer-reviewed literature in science, its decentralized, cumulative, self-correcting, & hypothesis-testing features, and be able to distinguish it from pseudoscience, such as “creation science” & intelligent design.

**Note:** this a new class and we will be very flexible with respect to assignments/dates. You will be involved in decisions to alter this syllabus.

**Teaching philosophy:** "Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will eat for a lifetime" - Confucius. Your instructor is here to teach you to fish, i.e. think. Therefore, he may ask you questions to develop your thinking skills. As long as you make an honest effort to answer the question you need not be embarrassed. However, if you are not keeping up with the material then you may indeed be embarrassed.

**iClickers:** You are required to purchase an iClicker remote for in-class participation. iClicker is a response system that allows you to respond to questions posed during class, and you will be graded on those questions. In order to receive this credit, you need to register your iClicker remote online at: <http://www.iclicker.com/registration>. Complete the fields with your first name, last name, student ID, and remote ID. Be sure to include the preceding zeros, E.g., 000456123 of your ID number. The remote ID is the series of numbers and letters found on the bottom of the back of your iClicker remote. The iClickers will be used every day in class, and you are responsible for bringing your remote daily.

Numerous studies have demonstrated that iClickers improve student learning. iClickers have been adopted for use within the Biology Department as well as several other departments on campus. So unless you are graduating you will probably use it again for several classes. But after the term ends you may sell your iClicker back to the bookstore or to another student. Using another student's iClicker or two remotes in class is considered cheating.

There will be approximately three graded iClicker questions per class. **iClicker grading:** 0.25 pt. for responding, 1 pt. for the correct answer, 0 for no answer. So each correct response will be worth 1.25 pts. At 3.75 or more points per class, the total points for the class will add up to well over a full exam! Therefore, class attendance is essential. Students will be allowed to miss 10% of the responses, which is 3 - 4 classes, before being penalized. If you have a legitimate excuse for missing more classes be sure to contact your instructor. The iClicker may also be used for anonymous polling, provoking discussions, and to gauge student comprehension of difficult topics. Information from these types of questions is not recorded, so your anonymity is guaranteed.

**Letter to the Editor:** Students will find and carefully read a newspaper article relating to evolution, and write a short (limit 200 word) "letter to the editor", regarding that article. This assignment will be worth 25 points and you will receive further instructions well in advance of the due date.

**Class Participation:** This is an upper division class and it is expected that students be on time, sit toward the front of the room, and fully participate in classroom discussions. The instructor reserves the right to give unannounced quizzes if it becomes apparent that students are not keeping up with the material and/or there are an unacceptable number of absences or tardy students. If you happen to be absent or late that day you will receive a grade of 0 for that quiz.

**Exams:** There will be three (3) exams. Exams will consist primarily of short answers, short essays and perhaps diagrams. Always bring an 11" x 8.5" Exam Book (blue or green) to the exams. The Exam Book must be **entirely blank**, no name or markings whatsoever on it. All writing must be legible. If I can't read it I won't grade it! Exam questions come directly from the notes, videos, furlough day assignments, and/or references from the announcements page. There are several important terms, noted in red and quotes in the notes, that you must know the **exact** definition.

You must turn off cell phones during exams. If your cell phone rings during an exam five (5) points will be deducted from your score. Taking out a cell phone during an exam is considered cheating, your exam will be confiscated, and you will receive an automatic F in the class.

It is **your** responsibility to notify the instructor **prior** to missing an exam and to supply him with a valid, **written** excuse. There will be **no** extra credit nor makeup exams. All requests to take exams at other than scheduled times must be in writing to the instructor at least **one week** prior to the scheduled exam.

<b>Grading</b>		
	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Value</b>
iClicker Questions	Everyday	100 + pts.
Exam 1	March 17	100 pts.
ID Trial worksheet	March 17	10 pts.
Letter to Editor	TBA	25 pts.
Furlough Day Assignments	TBA	TBA
Exam 2	April 26	100 pts.
Exam 3	May 28	100 pts.
Total		335 pts. (+ quizzes, FD Assignments and iClicker questions)

**Grades:** A = 100-90%, B = 89.9-80%, C = 79.9-70%, D = 69.9-60%, F <60%, CR > 69.9%, NC < 70%.

**Student Conduct:** It is essential that students respect the rights of others. Therefore, those who disrupt the class by talking or any other means will be asked to leave. Repeat offenders will be turned over to the appropriate student disciplinary committee. Turn off your cell phones during class.

**Cheating:** There is a zero tolerance policy. Any cheating whatsoever will result in an automatic F in the class and the matter will be turned over to the appropriate student disciplinary committee. Submitting a quiz for an absent student and/or using another student's iClicker or two remotes, are also considered cheating. Exam Books must be blank (not even your name) at the beginning of the exam. Taking out a cell phone during an exam is considered cheating, your exam will be confiscated, and you will receive a grade of F for the class.

**Evolution** is *the* unifying theme of biology and it will be the central theme of this course. If you have an open mind, which is what college is all about, and you understand the first lecture, you should not be threatened by it, regardless of your religious beliefs. Please remember that *your* beliefs are but one of dozens. If you wish to argue for them or you feel the instructor has disrespected them then please see him personally.

**Study skills:** This course is designed to introduce you to the extremely broad subject of evolution. Please note that your text is quite comprehensive and your instructor will cover only certain topics. But these may be supplemented with additional materials from many other sources. These may include instructor provided lecture notes and activities, assigned readings, and topics posted on the class announcements page.

To gain the most from lectures, it is best to read relevant text material and lecture notes beforehand and make a few notes or prepare questions for especially difficult material. Do not be overly concerned if you do not immediately grasp the material, if it were that easy we would not need lectures. During class pay attention and take complete and orderly notes. Do not assume you will remember things because they are easy or obvious; later when you are preparing for an exam they may not seem so easy or obvious. Pay particular attention to diagrams, lists and terms as well as anything the instructor clearly emphasizes by tone of voice.

During lecture do not hesitate to ask questions, make constructive comments or contribute if you have expertise on a particular subject. The only "dumb question" is an un-asked one! Very soon after class you should re-read the text material along with your notes. You may find you missed something in lecture or the text, and very frequently you may find misspellings in your notes. Make frequent use of your text and notes for further explanations on a subject you still don't understand. At the beginning of the next lecture period (or at his office) ask the instructor to clear up any problems you may still have. This will help both the instructor and the other students. The instructor needs your feedback in order to know if the class is encountering any problems.

**The above schedule and procedures in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.**