

Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Steven J. Wolf

Office: Naraghi Hall of Science 269

Office Hours: Mon., Weds., 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.; and by appointment.

Phone: 667-3489. If you leave a message speak slowly and clearly or your call will not be returned.

Lectures: MWF 9:00 - 9:50 a.m. in C-102.

Course Web Page: <http://arnica.csustan.edu/biol3020>. Consult it often for important, up to the minute information.

Announcements: Consult the [announcements page](#) often for important, up to the minute information.

Text: Evolution 101, by Moore and Moore. I also highly recommend Denying Evolution: Creationism, Scientism, and the Nature of Science, a very readable and entertaining paperback by Massimo Pigliucci.

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 by many other departments on campus. So you may use it again in other classes. It may also be sold back to the bookstore or to another student. There will be 2- 3 graded iClicker questions per class. So regular attendance is essential. 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.

Laptops: If you use a laptop computer in class it must be used only for purposes relevant to the course and you must sit in the first row. A first time violation will result in a 20 point deduction from your grade. A second violation will result in 50 points deducted from your grade and you will no longer be allowed to use a laptop in the class.

No classes on the following days:

March 18 - [Intelligent Design Trial assignment](#)

March 21 - 25 - Spring break

Student Learning Goals:

- The student will be introduced to the intellectual significance of the scientific theory of evolution.
- The student will be presented with an historical timeline of people, places and events that shaped our understanding and development of the modern theory of evolution and its court challenges.
- The student will learn how evolution works through its different processes (*i.e.*, natural selection, mutation, recombination, gene flow, genetic drift, migration, sexual selection).
- The student will be presented with the evidence for evolution from several scientific disciplines, for example, biochemistry, paleontology, genetics, biogeography, comparative anatomy, and molecular biology.
- Through scientific understanding of evolutionary relationships of fossils and living organisms, the student will gain further appreciation of natural history and biological diversity.

Homework due March 30: Watch 12 videos on [Intelligent Design trial](#) and hand in [question worksheet](#) worth 10 pts. Requires free [Acrobat Reader](#).

Exams: There will be four (4) exams, each worth 80 points. Exams may consist of multiple choice, matching, short answers, and short or long essays. Exam questions come directly from the notes, videos, and 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. Always bring a #2 pencil, Scantron form **883-E** (or ES) to the exams.

You must not leave the room during an exam without the instructors permission. You must turn off cell phones and remove baseball caps during exams. If your cell phone rings during an exam five (5) points will be deducted from your score. Failing to follow the instructions written on your exam will result in two (2) points being deducted for **each** violation. No food or drinks are permitted during exams. Cell phones must be put away during exams. 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.

Note: the Scantron machine sometimes makes mistakes, particularly when you change an answer and do not completely erase the other choice. In order to verify these mistakes you **must** also circle the correct answer on the question sheet. Challenges to the machine's accuracy will **not** be accepted if you did not do so. You have until the **next** class period, after the exam is returned (not when you pick it up), to challenge its accuracy.

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.

Activity	Date	Value
iClicker	Every class	50 pts.

Exam 1	Feb. 21	80 pts.
ID Trial	Mar. 30	10 pts.
Exam 2	Mar. 30	80 pts.
Exam 3	Apr. 25	80 pts.
Exam 4	May 23, 8:30 - 9:20	80 pts.
Total		380 pts. (+ quizzes)

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

Grading Option: Until 9:50 am, April 29 your instructor will sign add/drop forms to change grading options. It is your responsibility to turn this form into Admissions and Records by 5 pm that day. Your instructor will strictly follow the grading option indicated on the final grade sheet supplied by Admissions and Records. Consult with your advisor before making your decision. Grades will **not** be changed once they have been submitted.

Student Conduct: In such a large class 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 may have points deducted from their final grade and/or 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 another student and/or using another student's iClicker or **two remotes**, are also considered cheating. Taking out a cell phone during an exam is considered cheating, your exam will be confiscated, and you will receive a grade of F.

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.

Important Date: February 23 is the last day to drop the course.

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. As upper

division students you are expected to participate in your learning. You are expected to read your text and lecture notes prior to each lecture, study regularly, and to consult your text and notes when you have a question. Your instructor will be happy to answer questions once you have made an honest effort to do so on your own. A question may sometimes be answered with a question, or your fellow classmates may be called upon to help answer it. This is to lead you to the answer, not embarrass you. You are only asked to make an honest effort to answer the question. However, if you are not keeping up with the material then you may indeed be embarrassed.

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. Those who do not may have points deducted from their final grade. 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.

Study skills: This course is designed to introduce you to the basic principles and processes of evolution. Please note that your text is quite short and concise. Therefore, it will be supplemented by 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.