Syllabus BIOL 5193-060 (20980)
Graduate Seminar (Speciation)
Spring 2021
Meeting Times: Weekly on Mondays from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Location: Zoom (all-online, synchronous, not self-paced!). The Zoom link is on Canvas.
First Day of Class: Monday, January 11th
Last Day of Class: Monday, April 19th
Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday (No Class): Monday, January 18th
Spring Break (No Class): Monday, March 8th

Please note that this course is all-online, but it is not self-paced. We will be meeting weekly on Mondays from 11:00 am – 12 pm over Zoom. The Zoom link is on Canvas. Attendance at every Zoom meeting is required.

Instructor:
Dr. Joshua Banta
Director, Center for Environment, Biodiversity, and Conservation
Associate Professor, Department of Biology
Office: Hudnall, Pirtle, Roost Building (HPR) Room 129. NOTE: Since this is an all-online class, office hours will be held over the phone, not at my office.
Phone: (903) 565-5655
Email: jbanta@uttyler.edu
Office Hours: MWF 10:00 – 11:00 am or by appointment. NOTE: Since this is an all-online class, office hours will be held over the phone, not at my office. Simply call my phone number.

Grading:
Class participation
Total: 100%

90 – 100% = A  
80 – 89% = B  
70 – 79% = C  
60 – 69% = D  
< 60% = F
Required Materials:

- Access to a laptop or desktop computer or a tablet (iPad) on a regular basis.
  - It is not permitted to take this course using only your smartphone.
  - You must be able to access reliable, high-speed internet on your device on a regular basis, with generous data usage (no low data caps!).
  - If your home internet is not working, come to campus to your office. If your office is crowded, see if you can join us from one of the campus parking lots in your car.
- Headphones or speakers that work on your device.
  - The speakers may be built into your device (internal), or you may need to add external headphones or speakers on your own.
  - The bottom line is that you will need some way to hear sound on your device that accompanies the videos you will watch.
  - I have a limited number of headphones I can lend to you if you need them (on a first-come, first-served basis until they run out).
- If you cannot access these materials, you cannot take this course.

Class format: We will discuss book chapters and/or journal articles about species and speciation. Each week, you will receive a participation grade. The book chapters and/or journal articles will be posted at least one week ahead of the class.

Attendance and make-up policy: “Attendance” means attending all of the synchronous Zoom sessions. It is mandatory.

Excused absences: Absences, arriving late, and leaving early may be excused, at my discretion. They must be documented to my satisfaction. Valid excuses may include attending professional meetings, participation in university-related events, the death of a family member or friend, or an illness affecting yourself or someone you must provide care for (such as a spouse or a child). Valid excuses do not include car troubles, oversleeping, childcare problems, or work scheduling problems. If you miss class because you or someone you care for was ill, you must provide a doctor’s note listing the dates affected. “Excused absence” means I will not count missed attendances against you in your final grade.

Correspondence: You are required to activate the email address that is listed for you on Canvas and to check it regularly. You must check this email address at a minimum every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning, for the entire duration of the semester, for any correspondence from me. You are also required to check the Canvas site for this course every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning as well, for the entire duration of the semester, for any announcements. You will be held responsible for any information, including deadlines, that I communicate to you via your email address listed on Canvas and/or through the announcements on the Canvas course site. The information could come from one or both places (email and/or Canvas announcements), so you must check both places on the schedule indicated above.

Due Dates and Deadlines: You are required to have this course visible in your calendar on Canvas. To do so, make sure the box for the course has a check mark. You will be held responsible for all of the due dates and deadlines for this course that are indicated in your Canvas calendar.

Weather and/or closures: Because this is an all-online class, winter weather will not affect the course schedule or the deadlines. The same is true of any other disruptions (including COVID) that might close or restrict access to the university. The bottom line is that, even if everything else, including the university, gets closed, this course will always stay “open” as originally scheduled.

Privacy: Students do not have the right to be “anonymous” whether classes are in person or online, or for all-online classes. All discussion will take place within Canvas, and your names will be displayed.

Academic integrity: Any type of academic misconduct will be reported to the university administration, and at minimum will result in failure of the course.
Students Rights and Responsibilities

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/StudentRightsandResponsibilities.html

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness
If you are repeating this course for a grade replacement, you must file an intent to receive grade forgiveness with the registrar by the 12th day of class. Failure to do so will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates will receive grade forgiveness (grade replacement) for only three course repeats; graduates, for two course repeats during his/her career at UT Tyler.

State-Mandated Course Drop Policy
Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the 12th day of class (See Schedule of Classes for the specific date). Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Registrar's Office and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Registrar's Office if you have any questions.

Disability Services
In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodation must provide documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Support Services counselor. If you have a disability, including a learning disability, for which you request an accommodation, please contact Ida MacDonald in the Disability Support Services office in UC 282, or call (903) 566-7079.

Student Absence due to Religious Observance
Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities
If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA Statement:
It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation:
Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor’s directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.
Important Covid-19 Information for Classrooms and Laboratories
Students are required to wear face masks covering their nose and mouth, and follow social distancing guidelines, at all times in public settings (including classrooms and laboratories), as specified by Procedures for Fall 2020 Return to Normal Operations. The UT Tyler community of Patriots views adoption of these practices consistent with its Honor Code and a sign of good citizenship and respectful care of fellow classmates, faculty, and staff.

Students who are feeling ill or experiencing symptoms such as sneezing, coughing, or a higher than normal temperature will be excused from class and should stay at home and may join the class remotely. Students who have difficulty adhering to the Covid-19 safety policies for health reasons are also encouraged to join the class remotely. Students needing additional accommodations may contact the Office of Student Accessibility and Resources at University Center 3150, or call (903) 566-7079 or email saroffice@uttyler.edu.

Recording of Class Sessions
Class sessions may be recorded by the instructor for use by students enrolled in this course. Recordings that contain personally identifiable information or other information subject to FERPA shall not be shared with individuals not enrolled in this course unless appropriate consent is obtained from all relevant students. Class recordings are reserved only for the use of students enrolled in the course and only for educational purposes. Course recordings should not be shared outside of the course in any form without express permission.