Syllabus BIOL 5193-002 (20634)
Graduate Seminar (Speciation)
Spring 2019
Meeting Times: 10:10 – 11:05 am
Location: BEP 140
First Day of Class: Wednesday, January 16th
Last Day of Class: Wednesday, April 24th

Instructor:
Dr. Josh Banta
Hudnall-Pirtle-Roosth Building (HPR) room 129 (Please knock loudly!)
Phone: (903) 565-5655
Email: jbanta@uttyler.edu
Office Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 3:00 – 4:00 pm or by appointment

Grading:
Class participation, 50% of final grade
Chairing paper discussions, 50% of final grade
Total: 100%

90 – 100% = A
80 – 89% = B
70 – 79% = C
60 – 69% = D
< 60% = F
Class format: Each week we will take turns discussing papers on speciation.

Paper discussion: Each week, a different student will lead the paper discussion. Papers will be posted on Blackboard, usually on the Wednesday prior. Whether you are chairing the discussion or not, you must print out and bring the week’s paper(s) to class as part of your participation grade. Looking at the papers on laptop/tablet/smartphone screens will not be permitted, because it interferes with discussion.

Leading paper discussions is worth 50% of your final grade. Each person will lead multiple paper discussions. When you are in charge, you must make a concept map. The concept map must be made with the software InspirationTM version 9 (available at inspiration.com). The format of the concept maps will be discussed in class in greater detail, but it generally follows the format of an outline but with greater freedom. The concept map must explain the main concepts of the paper and go over the paper’s keywords, if any (which follow after the abstract).

Participation: You will receive a daily participation grade for each of the 13 classes. Together it is worth 50% of your final grade.

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). Car troubles may be excused, at my discretion, and will require documentation that covers the dates in question. Valid excuses do not include oversleeping 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 attendance points against you in your final grade.

Academic integrity: Cheating or any other 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.uttler.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.