BIOE 409.00: Behavior and Evolution Discussion

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BIOE 409 - Behavior & Evolution Discussion

Course Information:
Instructor: Douglas Emlen
Teaching Assistant: Bridget Creel
Term: Fall 2021
Credits: 1
Location & Time: TBA

Course Description:
This course will complement BIOE406, introducing students to primary literature related to the general topic of behavior and evolution, and provide them with constructive feedback on writing skills. Course outcomes include providing students with an introduction to the literature and methods of the study of animal behavioral ecology and meaningful feedback on the art of effective written communication.

Assessment:
Students will participate in a weekly discussion section of supplemental readings, and complete a written assignment. The written assignment consists of a topic chosen by the student and approved by the instructor, and involves a research paper of 2 – 3 pages in length. Emphasis for grading will be on the quality of the writing, including organization, grammar, polish and style, and students are expected to show drafts of their paper to others for comments prior to turning the paper in to me. Students will revise and continue to polish their paper for two additional rounds, for a total of three times graded (once by the TA and twice by the instructor).

Grading Rubric:
Written Assignment:
Outline 20%
First version 20%
Final version 30%

Discussion Participation:
- Homework 10%
- Presentation of paper 10%
- General participation in discussion 10%

Learning Outcomes:
- At the end of this course students should be comfortable reading, evaluating, and discussing current and classic literature in the fields of Animal Behavior and Evolutionary Biology.
- Students will have honed their writing skills, writing, and then repeatedly revising a term paper to improve their fluency, grammatical accuracy, and style.
- Students will be comfortable writing effective thesis statements, designing an effective paper structure, using effective transition sentences to connect topics in adjacent paragraphs, and crafting sentences with elegance and style.
At the end of this semester students will have an essay that is polished and professional, perfect for inclusion in job or other applications.

**Students with Disabilities:**
The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you have a disability that adversely affects your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.