COURSE OUTLINE:
EVOLUTION & ADAPTATION *(EEB214S)* 2012
Ecological & Evolutionary Biology, University of Toronto

Course Coordinator: Jennifer Carpenter (Rm. 2033, Earth Sciences Centre)
P: 416-978-2086
E: jennifer.carpenter@utoronto.ca
W: www.jennycarpenter.com
Twitter: @JennyCarpy

Teaching Assistants: Nathaniel Sharp (nathaniel.sharp@mail.utoronto.ca)

Class Schedule: **Lectures:** 6-9 pm Wednesday
Location: RW 110

Course Website: Blackboard (portal.utoronto.ca)

Objectives:
This is a one-term lecture/tutorial course aimed at increasing awareness and understanding about the scientific basis and principles behind the theory of evolution. It will give students an opportunity to examine the implications of evolutionary theory, and scientific thought more generally, in modern society. The course allows students to hone their critical evaluation and writing skills, and to develop a level of confidence in discussing scientifically-based material.

Through the successful completion of this course, students will learn:
i) The historical development of evolutionary theory by Darwin & his predecessors;
ii) The evidence presented to support the theory of natural selection;
iii) Adaptive strategies that have evolved in animals to deal with their life goals;
iv) Skills in writing popular science articles for communicating with the public;
v) To critically evaluate the literature on controversial scientific issues and develop sound arguments to support their ideas.

Course Approach:
The course is comprised of two general components: 1) Darwin's story and the development of evolutionary thinking; the origins, history, evidence, and implications; and 2) Biological adaptation in response to natural selection as constrained by the four basic life goals of living organisms. The material is presented in lecture format one day a week for two hours, and then the third hour during which films and discussions will be shown and held for students interested in deepening their understanding of evolutionary concepts. While the tutorials are not mandatory, it is strongly recommended that students attend as many as possible as they add considerably to the ideas presented in class. Many examples are shown here that will help students remember the material covered in the lectures.

Students are responsible for all material covered in class, as well as the assignment outside class. The assignment is to write a popular science article.

Course Evaluation:		
Component	**Value**	**Due Date**
Tests:		
Midterm (multiple choice)	30%	24 October (In Class)
Final Exam (short answer)	35%	Final exam week
Other:		
Popular Science Article	35%	21st November

Expectations:

Attendance and Participation

You and your fellow students will get much more from this course if you attend class regularly, as many of the concepts and examples are often referred to in the exams. While the readings I set will help reinforce the material covered in lectures, it is no substitute for the lecture material itself as this information is constructed uniquely to the course. Exams cover the lecture material and the readings, while the videos and discussions will help illustrate the concepts more clearly.

Email and other Communication

Each email message must include in the subject line the course identifier and a concise and clear statement of purpose, for example EEB214S: I have a conflict with next test. I will try to answer course-related emails within 1-2 days. If you do not receive a response within that period please resubmit your question(s). If a number of students ask the same question I will try to address the issue at the beginning of the next class.

If a question cannot be easily answered by email I suggest you arrange to see either me after class, or with the TA. In addition, you may want to ask your classmates for help by using the Discussion forum on the Blackboard site. Please note that some servers (such as hotmail) can be unreliable in both sending and receiving messages. I encourage you to send myself or the TA's email using your UTORmail email account (see www.utorid.utoronto.ca). You can easily forward mail received at your UTORmail account to the email account that you use regularly.

Assignments, Tests and Marking

You must complete all assignments, tests and exams in this course in order for you to pass. The penalty for late assignments is 10% per day up to a maximum of 50%. Exceptions to this policy for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc. will be considered by the instructor only when supported by written documentation (e.g., a record of their absence using the ROSI Absence Declaration and a completed U of T medical certificate). A mark of 0% will be given for any unexcused test/exam absences or for incomplete assignments.

If you believe that your mark on a test or assignment should be reconsidered you must submit the item for re-marking within 7 days of its return. You are also required to submit a written statement explaining why you feel the mark should be adjusted. Your final mark after remarking may be higher or lower than the original mark. The instructor will provide a written response. An item will only be accepted for re-marking once.

Plagiarism
Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and can be avoided through sufficient understanding about the nature of the offence, good planning to ensure ample time to meet course deadlines with correct referencing, and a strong ethical sense that avoids stealing others' ideas and work. The University of Toronto has clear guidelines concerning plagiarism (i.e. what it is; the penalties for falling into it; and how it can be avoided). The University of Toronto websites with information on plagiarism include http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize & http://www.utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/resourcesforstudents.html.
Academic integrity and the code of ethics for academic behaviour at the University of Toronto can be found at: http://www.utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/academicoffenses.html.
Please familiarize yourself with these expectations and understand that actions as laid out by the code must be taken with respect to any offense committed in the context of this course.
If you have questions about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism, clear them up with me before you engage.

Course Website:
Like many other courses, EEB214S uses Blackboard for its course website. To access the EEB214S website, or any other Blackboard-based course website, go to the U of T portal login page at http://portal.utoronto.ca and log in using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to the portal using your UTORid and password, look for the My Courses module, where you'll find the link to the EEB214S course website along with the link to all your other Blackboard-based courses. The Blackboard site will contain important information, documents, and announcements regarding the course. Please check it regularly.