GEOS 13900 1, BIOS 13123 1 - Biological Evolution - Instructor(s): David Jablonski

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Winter 2024**

Number Enrolled: **112**
Number of Responses: **60**

Report Comments

Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specific course and do not represent the University.

Creation Date: **Thursday, March 28, 2024**

What are the most important things that you learned in this course? Please reflect on the knowledge and skills you gained.

Comments
bio evolution theories
the macro and microscopic viewpoints of how evolution happened/works
The origin of life and speciation
Evolution
Evolution
The fundamentals of evolution
Different hierarchy of evolution.
Micro and macro evolution, adaption, and diversification
Biological evolution stages and how they function to form our current life.
The importance of evolution on all kinds of life. It was amazing to learn about how life evolved from the beginning of time to now, and how it continues to evolve.
Features of evolution. What drives and influences evolution?
Evolutionary concepts, super interesting
Evolution is a bush, not a ladder!
The key theories behind biological evolution: natural selection and its different forms and the origin of life and the key periods in our geological history
All about evolution
Pareto and nash–equilibrium
evolution, the history of life
I learned a lot about the history of life on Earth and the factors that influence evolution from basic prokaryotes up to modern–day humans.
Causes and effects of macro and micro evolution
I learned themes in various regions of science such as ecology, evolution, and genetics all from this course. I was able to observe how all of these things were connected
How evolution works, from the cellular to the species level.
Evolution is not a ladder but a tree.
Bio evolution in different hierarchies; mapping & connecting evolution concepts from all levels instead of just random collection of examples.
We learned about evolutiionary biology on multiple different levels, from forces of natural selection that acted at the cellular level, all the way through to the effects of macroevolution and development of species. The first half of the course focused on those different forces, while the latter half focused on Earth's evolutionary history.
Learning evolution and the mechanisms by which animal species do so. Learn how to better understand differences between animals and animal species.
Wow. I was honestly stunned by how much I learned. I learned to conceptualize geological time, I learned about human evolution and I feel I have a well–rounded knowledge of how we are where we are today. I really enjoyed all the details and the passion with which the professor presented each lecture. I also learned that I need to be detailed and not gloss over information that I think is obvious in my exams.
I learned about fundamental mechanisms of biological evolution, and how to explain causes and effects of evolutionary patterns across a geologic timeline
The history of life, key tenets of evolution ("Evolution has no foresight," "Evolution occurs at many levels: genes, individuals, populations, species, lineages"), Hardy Weinberg Equilibrium, ways complex adaptations can arise—the course is simply filled with wonderful material and lectures. I never thought that biological evolution would be a fascinating topic, but now, I just want to look more at fossils and figure out the tree of life. One of the most important things I learned is not to draw simplistic conclusions: e.g. many people treat evolution like a "ladder" toward one species at the end, such that humans evolved from apes that decided to walk upright, grow bigger brains, etc. Instead, there is no single end–point that everything is moving towards, and yet, all of these complex patterns and developments can arise.
The most important thing I learned was how natural selection operates on biological life. In addition to this, in the second third of the quarter, I gained a pretty good understanding of the history of life on Earth.
The most important thing covered in this course is the history of biological evolution and how each event had major impacts on

Comments
overall evolution.
mechanisms of evolution
Selection pressures in shaping evolution. Covered patterns throughout earth's history and major evolutionary events.
mechanics of evolution and the history of life
The history of life on earth; the various mechanisms and patterns of evolution; a menagerie of interesting examples of evolutionary adaptations.
Introduction to evolutionary concepts like natural selection and the origins of major groups. Also learned history of life.
–evolution, on all levels –history of life –natural selection, adaptation, origin of species –how to connect concepts to multiple patterns in life and history
History of Life, Evolution, and Relationships between Species
I learned a lot about how evolution works. Some concepts covered include natural selection, mosaic evolution, etc.
evolution starting at the micro level and ending at the macro level
patterns of evolution
I learned major concepts in evolution such as punctuated cladogenisis and natural selection.
Macro and micro evolution
The history of the Earth, and the different adaptation mechanisms that gave us the organisms we see today.
Analyze the evolution of traits and large patterns across species
Fascinating course – loved learning about how biological evolution works across many hierarchical levels! Professor Jablonski also references the latest research findings (eg. citing papers published three weeks beforehand). We also ended the course by discussing how evolutionary principles can be applied to help predict the consequences of human actions for biodiversity and inform future choices.
The history of the earth and processes of natural evolution, how evolution occurs, examples of different evolutionary problems and different evolutionary principles, how to understand and apply these principles to looking at different organisms, etc
evolution and the fundamental tenets that make it up

Describe how aspects of this course (lectures, discussions, labs, assignments, etc.) contributed to your learning.

Comments
lectures
lectures were amazing, engaging, and really informative. discussions and the assignments were less relevant to the actual exams but informative nonetheless
Lectures were very useful, discussion sections we just talked about the homework, which was fine as there wasn't a lot
Lectures are great
Lectures were great
Lectures were amazing. Discussion and assignments were also good.
Lectures are very engaging.
Lectures were very hard and made no sense.
lectures need to be attended. They are super helpful and packed with information on exams. Discussions are useless.
Lectures and discussions session. Forming study group can also be really helpful.
The lectures are amazing. I found myself being engaged at every lecture (but I am also biased because I love evolutionary biology). The discussions were helpful too since it gave us time and space to expand on certain ideas that we wouldn't have been able to go over in lectures.
The lectures were interesting but, at times, too in–depth to be engaging unless you have prior knowledge. Discussions were not too helpful. Assignments were good.
Jablonski is an amazing lecturer
Lectures were very interesting. Professor Jablonski is a very interesting lecturer and is able to combine theoretical concepts with a lot of examples in the natural world.

Comments
discussions helped, lectures give u all the information you need
the lecture and the slides are really helpful
lectures were good and helpful; discussions less helpful, felt somewhat detached from the course content
Discussions were definitely helpful, but were made out to be a much bigger deal than necessary. Rather than 2+ hours every week, it was generally only about an hour and only once every few weeks.
Mostly lecture based, discussions weren’t super useful
The discussions allowed me to learn more about the course through the readings assigned, which gave more information and details about certain topics we were presented with in class
Lectures were great, I only wish the slides could've been posted online for ease of access. Discussions were great, but honestly I don't think they were super vital.
David talks about a lot of topics during lectures, and his handout are extremely useful. However this course does not have homework and all the grade depends on your midterm and final grade. I do not like the discussion part of this course. Their assignment (especially the field trip) takes a lot of time but is not very fruitful to me.
The lectures were what contributed to my learning the most, while the readings added some supplemental information. The discussions felt less necessary, but I did enjoy the Field Museum trip.
Discussions were interesting and it allowed for interesting ideas and perspectives to be shared. Certain ideas that were not made particularly clear in lectures were often clarified in discussions.
Our discussion sections were a great opportunity to take a step back from the fast pace of lectures and take time to discuss and present everything from the plague to ethical issues with cloning. It was a great compliment to the course, and the Field Museum field trip was a great way to spend a Sunday and the accompanying project was super interesting.
I felt that lectures were very helpful for compiling and filtering down content from the textbook and over the course. I also felt that discussion sessions were an engaging way to review content from the lectures, but were not as useful as the lectures.
The course involved great lectures, ~4 discussions that expanded on the course material, a field trip to the Field Museum, a textbook and recommended readings, and some out of class assignments. The lectures were definitely the most useful for me – Dr. Jablonski covered a lot of material and put it in a way that was more understandable than the textbook (which tended to focus on the genetics behind adaptations). He also provided outlines for each lecture, which made it easier to go back, review, and categorize the topics and my thoughts. The discussions were also super interesting, and the last one on human evolution + impact on biodiversity led to a wonderfully spirited debate. The trip to the Field Museum was very fun, and it really opened my eyes to the difficulties with studying fossils and drawing conclusions (I will forever be traumatized by the skeletons of mammalian forelimbs and hindlimbs...). Lastly, the textbook and readings provided great supplementary material; a lot of the exams/assignments were example based, and these texts were filled with them.
Lectures were incredibly helpful and handouts were useful for studying. The labs were fun and engaging but were not incredibly helpful in terms of content. The readings were really in–depth and covered way more than was necessary.
Lectures were very insightful and the professor made each one very engaging. Discussions were also interesting in adding to my learning.
Professor Jablonski is an amazing lecturer. His lectures are super interesting.
dicussions sections didn't quite have much to do with the exams, but were still very worthwhile
Lectures were the central focus of the course, and they were very engaging. On the other hand, the discussion sections (and associated assignments) felt a bit forced, and I'm not sure I got much out of them as opposed to having a more traditional assignment structure.
Lectures and the handouts were very useful and interesting. Discussion section and assignments were slightly tedious but also fine.
–Although Prof. Jablonski's lectures were extremely fast–paced in nature and content covered, they were quite interesting and you could always tell he is so passionate about what he is teaching, which only enhances the experience –There were a few short assignments throughout the quarter, but those were not time consuming –Midterm and final were weighted quite heavily –Discussions were honestly pretty interesting and thought–provoking
Helped coalesce lectures into understandable and relatable lessons
I appreciated the lectures and the lecture handouts. The lectures were well organized and the handouts gave an outline of topics that I could look back on.
very interesting lectures by a very interesting professor
lectures and handouts were helpful
The lectures were most helpful, remember to take notes

Comments
Lectures were some of the best I've had, Dave is an amazing teacher. Discussions were helpful for learning additional content
The lectures contributed the most to learning. The handouts he gives out in class are super useful for studying for midterms and finals.
The lectures were always very informative, but Professor Jablonski also made them fun! He would also always stay after class and patiently answer our questions, which I really appreciated.
The lectures were incredibly helpful and also interesting! Professor Jablonski is an amazing lecturer who is so clearly passionate about the subject but still capable of expressing it in a way that is organized and comprehensible (and suitable for a core class). I would say that going to the lectures and taking notes and reviewing those notes is enough to be able to do relatively well on exams and projects — professor Jablonski also makes sure to emphasize points that are important to tests and upcoming projects, and note what details / complexities it is unnecessary to memorize. The discussions were helpful in exploring the ideas of the course and for clearing up any confusion about readings / different projects!
they definitely helped me hone in on specific things i.e. human intervention on bio diversity

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.40	4.00	0.00%	1.82%	5.45%	43.64%	49.09%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.49	5.00	0.00%	1.82%	3.64%	38.18%	56.36%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.11	4.00	5.45%	5.45%	5.45%	40.00%	43.64%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	3.64%	5.45%	20.00%	70.91%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.09	4.00	0.00%	9.26%	16.67%	29.63%	44.44%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.22	5.00	1.82%	9.09%	9.09%	25.45%	54.55%
I felt respected in this class.	4.69	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	3.64%	23.64%	72.73%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.57	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.41%	27.78%	64.81%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
jablonksi is an incredible lecturer, take this class if you are at all interested in evolution
The grading can be inconsistent
Some of the grading by TA's is unclear and the expectations are not clear. The lectures are important. TA's are excess graders, marking off unnecessary points. But the professor is very interested in his studies and the course. Lectures and the professor were great.
The content is amazing, especually for people who are interested in Biological evolution. I think even if you are not interested in it at the first place, you will be attracted at the end of the class.
This is a great core bio to take because the content is pretty interesting and the lectures are good.
This is definitely a good choice as a core bio option for students not interested in STEM majors.
N/A
Highly highly recommend taking detailed notes and attending every lecture.
Loved it!
I really enjoyed the enthusiasm and concision with which Mr. Jablonski's lectures were presented. It made learning about biological evolution fun!
Take this course!!! Dr. Jablonski is a great lecturer, he's super passionate about the course, and he made the class very enjoyable. Plus, the material itself was very fascinating and gave me a more profound respect for where we come from.
This course has genuinely changed the way I see the (natural) world; certainly, this course has given me a new appreciation for biology.
The midterm and final are all short answer questions, so I don't know if I would recommend this course if you don't like/aren't comfortable writing under time pressure. However, the content is very interesting, so I felt it was worth it.
I wish David would've been more clear the content we had to memorize, as he goes over a lot of interesting stuff that doesn't come up in exams.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	1.89%	98.11%
Anyone interested in the topic	7.41%	92.59%

Thinking about your time in the class, what aspect of the instructor's teaching contributed most to your learning?

Comments
lectures, course handouts
the lectures were fantastic
Instructor taught clearly and held a review session before the midterm
Amazing lectures with examples.
Lecture.
Lectures
His amazing lectures and also review sessions. He always prepare handouts to help students review too.
The way the professor spoke helped to make the material more engaging. It was quite funny at times and he would often pull from his own experiences of meeting other well–known biologists/paleontologists to explain a concept.
The instructor was clearly passionate, engaged, and very knowledgeable.
Incredible lectures
His jokes
Lecturers and review sessions were extremely helpful and interesting. I found the lecturers explained the concepts much more clearly than the textbook. Additionally, professor Jablonski's examples and anecdotes mean that, even though I am not someone interested in biology, I was always engaged by lectures
the lecture is v interesting

Comments
lectures and handouts
Professor Jablonski was clearly very knowledgeable. He was also a very skilled presenter who clearly put a lot of work into planning lectures and did a good job keeping students engaged.
He is a very good lecturer
His presentations were very detailed and he gave each of us copies of handouts that further advanced our knowledge of the course and provided diagrams for our learning
Prof. Jablonski's lectures were super informative, funny, and interesting.
Handout before each class, which contains most of the contents the Prof is going to talk about.
Professor Jablonski was an amazing lecturer. I enjoyed the anecdotes he shared about those scientists, and great examples of bio evolution was introduced that could only amaze you.
The bulk of the learning in this course came from Prof. Jablonski's wonderful lectures. You can tell that he is very passionate about the subject; I also enjoyed the current research that he discussed, showing us how the field of evolutionary biology has evolved.
The lectures were quite interesting and it engaged me as a student. The lectures presented various studies that provided interesting support to what Professor Jablonski was saying.
His passion and the wealth of examples that he provided. He did not quickly go over anything that he mentioned, and all the topics that are relevant to the subject matter of the course were covered in great detail with plenty of examples.
He covered a lot of big–picture ideas, and consistently provided several examples that were helpful to apply to the exams.
I think the lectures contributed the most to my learning. Due to the outlines, I was able to follow them well and take supplementary notes; my recommendation is to come to class with either a supplementary piece of paper or notes document because the outlines are just that – they're not very detailed, nor do they have all the examples you'll need to do well on the exams. Dr. Jablonski did not have regular office hour times, but he was always available right before class and then after lectures for questions – I think these moments were super helpful.
The lectures were really helpful as he went over the main topics of the subjects and covered them really well.
The instructor's energy to the class was great, and I loved how knowledgeable he was on every topic.
handouts are super helpful
The examples and stories related to the content was really intriguing and made the lectures more interesting
lectures were great!
Prof. Jablonski's lectures were fascinating and engaging—–I learned a lot from them!
Lectures were interesting and fun.
–Lectures were very helpful in learning about the topics, but you really had to pay attention –Lecture handouts were also nice for recaps of the lecture
Lectures, Handouts, Discussions Sections
Professor Jablonski's lectures were engaging, and it was very interesting to hear about how his work relates to the topics we learned in class.
lectures
lecture, review sessions
Lectures
David's passion and enthusiasm really shine through in his lectures, he is very captivating and the best lecturer I've had!
The lectures
Answering questions after class + lectures + lecture notes. Lecture–wise, I really liked that he incorporated the latest research findings into his course, and also discussed his own research.
Professor Jablonski is just an incredible lecturer who is both organized and engaging. It is really clear that he loves the material he's teaching and finds it incredibly interesting, and that enthusiasm is passed on to his students —it makes it easy to pay attention in class and to enjoy the material as well. The lecture outlines provided help follow along and help give a sense of where a given lecture is going (as well as helps make up for missed information), and all in all, this is the most fun I've had in a STEM core class as a social science student at this university!
his passion about pretty much everything was a wonder to watch and I'm really grateful

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
post lecture slides
potentially slow down slightly on lectures?
Instructor went through the slides very quickly so I sometimes wouldn't have the chance to write everything down
not much
Nothing.
if releasing lecture slides
Nothing else.
Make handouts available online or print out more of them at least
Nothing
Go through the standards for the midterm and final at the start. I found that, approaching the midterm, the notes I had taken during lecture were sometimes insufficient as I hadn't included in detail many of the examples he mentioned in class because I had thought that they were just interesting examples to help illustrate a point or a theory. When he mentioned closer to the midterm that the exam would require us to quote examples, I was then scrambling to find some.
post slides on canvas
the sample questions are not enough
I know there are copyright issues but somehow posting the slides would be really helpful if there is any way to figure that out
It would reeeeeeeeeeally help if we could get copies of the slides and if the note sheet was posted on Canvas. The notes were definitely helpful, but you're kind of screwed if you miss a class.
If he could find a way to post lecture slides/daigarms would be helpful
N/A
N/A
Give a small homework (such as 3–4 multiple choice questions) after each class
I know that there are limitations on the content that can be posted for this course, but I would have appreciated if the lecture outlines were put onto Canvas (even without the pictures on the back).
I would really love for the slides to be posted. The handouts are really helpful and they have proven a great study resource. I attended every class and took relatively diligent notes, but there are still a few gaps that the slides would supplement well.
Nothing really. I also found the review sessions to be very helpful.
Nothing! I think the spread of lecture information, textbook + supplementary reading information (highly recommended, the ones by Gould in particular were fun to read), discussion sections, and question availability were perfect.
I think it would be really helpful if he posted his lecture slides on canvas.
None.
nothing
nothing really —- maybe make the expectations for the midterm/final more clear from the beginning? to be honest, that's not even necessary.
I wish there had been more assignments based on the readings. I had a very busy quarter, and since even the required readings were not important to success on assignments, I found myself skipping them. I wish there had been some enforcement of those readings, because I'm sure I would have learned a lot more had I had a reason to do them.
Posting lecture slides would have been immensely helpful in both understanding the material (which was a lot) and for studying for the exams. Clearer expectations on both tests, since there were so many concepts and examples. Grading was also kind of harsh on the midterm?
N/A
I wish Professor Jablonski had connected the concepts in the second half of the course to the first half more explicitly.
n/a
More instructions on test
Uploaded slides onto canvas
I didn't find the discussion sections particularly enlightening.
I do think the second half of the course was a bit harder to navigate than the first half, so perhaps placing each lecture in context (eg. visually showing us where today's course topics lie in the context of the geologic time scale) would be a great additional touch!
Nothing!

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.47	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.27%	38.18%	54.55%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	1.82%	23.64%	74.55%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.44	5.00	1.85%	0.00%	5.56%	25.93%	46.30%	20.37%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.57	5.00	0.00%	1.85%	3.70%	29.63%	64.81%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.57	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	1.85%	38.89%	57.41%	1.85%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.59	5.00	0.00%	1.85%	1.85%	31.48%	64.81%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.35	5.00	0.00%	1.89%	15.09%	20.75%	49.06%	13.21%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.49	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	27.78%	59.26%	1.85%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	5.56%	22.22%	72.22%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.72	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	3.77%	20.75%	75.47%	0.00%

Please include the name of the TA/CA/Intern you are evaluating. What aspects of the TA's teaching contributed most to your learning? What could the TA modify to help you learn more? Please include any additional feedback for the TA/CA/Intern.

Comments
Yue Deng
Menna Jones
david cerny
loved Max!
David Cerny. Facilitated open discussions.
Yue
Kieran. You are awesome
Kieran Althaus
Yue Deng
Sapon.
The TA discussions were useless. The many Tasks graded differently, so assignment grades varied between students (unfairly). Exams were unfairly and unnecessary and aggressively graded. TA were not clear on their expectations for assignments.
David Cerny. He organized helpful discussion sessions. It would be better if he held the office hour. Overal speaking, he is an amazing TA!
David Cerny guides the discussion well by posing questions and such. He is also really chill and very helpful if I have a question about something and provides answers as best as he can.
TA was helpful
Jo Robertson. She was great, super responsive and nice.
Ricardo Trejo
Brok. He was a very helpful TA, particularly regarding the assignments and field museum trip.
Kieran – great discussion leader and helpful in and out of class
Camellia Ye the discussion session is really helpful
Ricardo Muñiz Trejo
Jenna Jones

Comments
David Cenry was extremely helpful with assignments as he was readily available to meet and discuss ideas or provide feedback
Broc Kokesh. Great TA, he was very responsive when I had questions about discussion section assignments.
Sapon. He leads our discussion session very well. But personally I feel like the discussion session of this course is not designed very well and I did not learn a lot from that.
Broc Kokesh
My TA was Yue Deng. They were very knowledgeable and helped to guide our weekly discussions. Unfortunately, I don't know that the discussions majorly helped to reinforce the class concepts, and there was a general low level of student engagement that reflected this. This doesn't seem to be the fault of the TA, rather the structure of the course.
Jo Roberston, she greatly facilitated discussion and helped to clarify ideas and concepts that were not made clear in class. She was also quite friendly and available to help any student if needed.
Menna Jones was great at leading discussions. I never really felt like there was a lull in our discussions and we covered a lot. She as incredibly helpful in communicating what the grading was for the midterm and what I could have improved on base don the rubric. She even advocated for me to get points back, which I really appreciated.
Ricardo was very helpful in elaborating on certain topics/concepts relevant to the course. I would've appreciated if he provided more elaborative feedback on graded assignments, though.
Ricardo was an amazing TA, and he led my discussion section. I think my favorite part was how he was truly a moderator of discussion vs. a leader – he always let us get our points out first before he would ask additional questions or provide his own feedback. Plus, he always provided feedback on assignments, even if he didn't have any critiques and just wanted to compliment specific parts of our work. During one discussion section, he presented his own research on protein evolution, and that was very exciting too.
Sapon. He was really knowledgeable and was good at explaining foreign concepts. He was a bit bland but the things he said were incredibly helpful.
David Cerny
Jo. She was great in facilitating the discussions and bringing out insightful thoughts during our discussions.
Kieran
Sapon
Max Bogan – she was very understanding. Although the discussion sessions and extra assignments weren't super helpful in directly adding to the content of the course, I learned a lot.
Jo Robertson
Max Bogan: I thought Max did a great job moderating the discussion sections, and she usually supplemented that discussion with further exposition/explanation/examples.
Amanda Doyle
Jo Robertson. She was super nice and understanding, and also had a great sense of humor. She was so helpful to me in getting my questions answered, and made discussion fun. She was always so supportive and I can tell she just wanted us to succeed!
Broc Kokesh
Maximiliana Bogan. She was a great TA, and she was good at stimulating discussion if it died down.
Amanda Doyle
Broc Kokesh
Jo Roberson
Yue. Did a very good job of leading the discussion sections.
Menna Jones; she was wonderful, very engaged in discussion at every participant's level, some of the answers people gave almost made half the group laugh but she held it together. Definitely showed what it's like to do research.
Jo Robertson
Amanda Doyle

The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.33	4.50	1.92%	0.00%	11.54%	36.54%	50.00%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.25	4.00	0.00%	5.77%	9.62%	38.46%	46.15%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.37	4.00	1.92%	0.00%	5.77%	44.23%	48.08%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.38	5.00	1.92%	0.00%	7.69%	38.46%	51.92%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.29	5.00	1.92%	1.92%	13.46%	30.77%	51.92%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.46	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.62%	32.69%	53.85%	3.85%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.27	4.00	1.92%	1.92%	11.54%	36.54%	48.08%	0.00%

How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

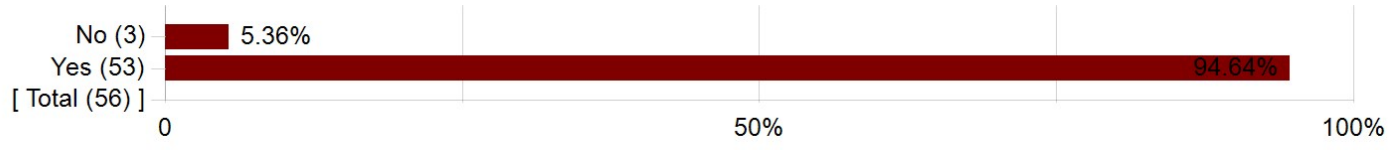
	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	3.57	4.00	0.00%	2.44%	4.88%	7.32%	2.44%	82.93%
Field Trips	3.69	4.00	2.04%	22.45%	12.24%	28.57%	32.65%	2.04%
Library Sessions	3.75	4.00	0.00%	2.44%	0.00%	4.88%	2.44%	90.24%
Review Sessions	4.40	5.00	0.00%	4.65%	2.33%	23.26%	39.53%	30.23%
Writing Seminars	3.33	4.00	0.00%	2.44%	0.00%	4.88%	0.00%	92.68%

Other course elements not mentioned above:

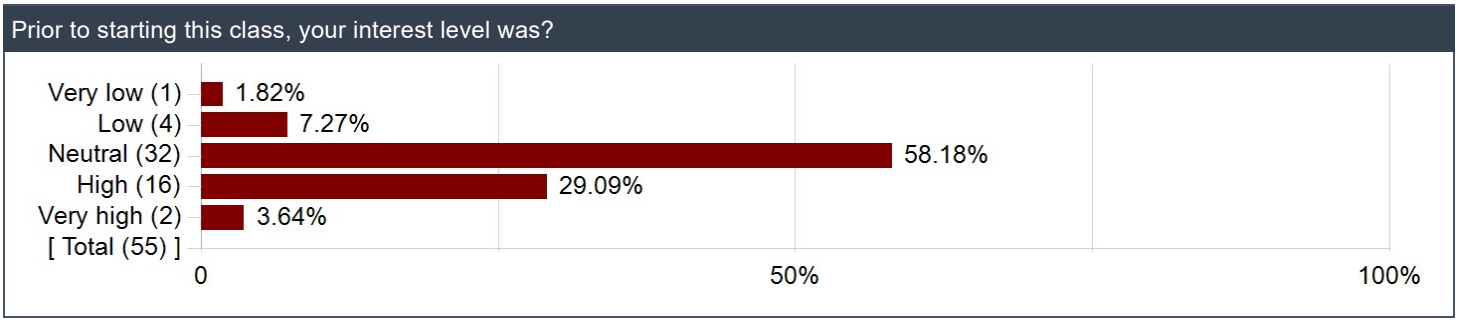
Comments
Nothing else
Discussion Section — concepts discussed were interesting but 2 hours was very long for the discussion section and we found ourselves often out of things to discuss before the end of section
To comment on the field museum assignment: it would have been a lot better if the questions were ordered in a way that makes sense for moving through the museum. i feel like I spent more time walking back and forth through the museum than looking at the exhibits.
N/A
Discussion

Is this class a requirement of some sort?

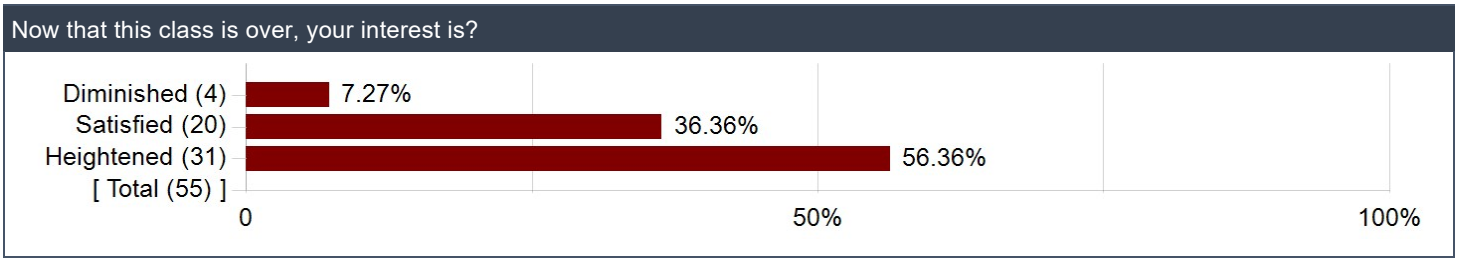
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



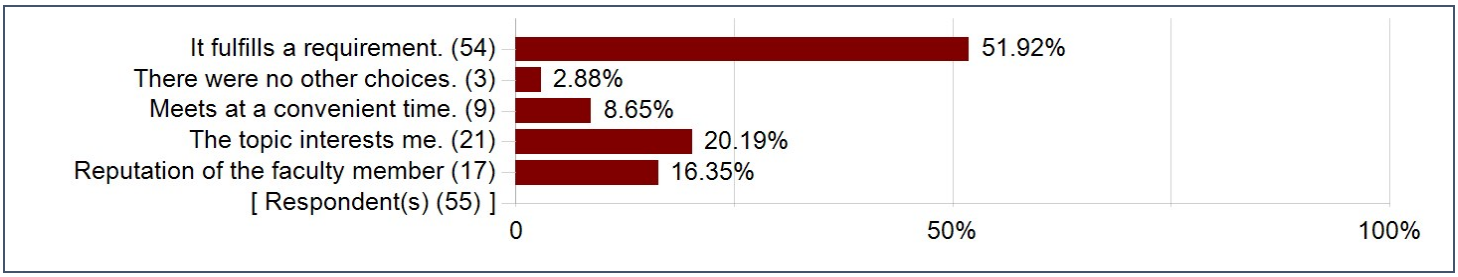
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



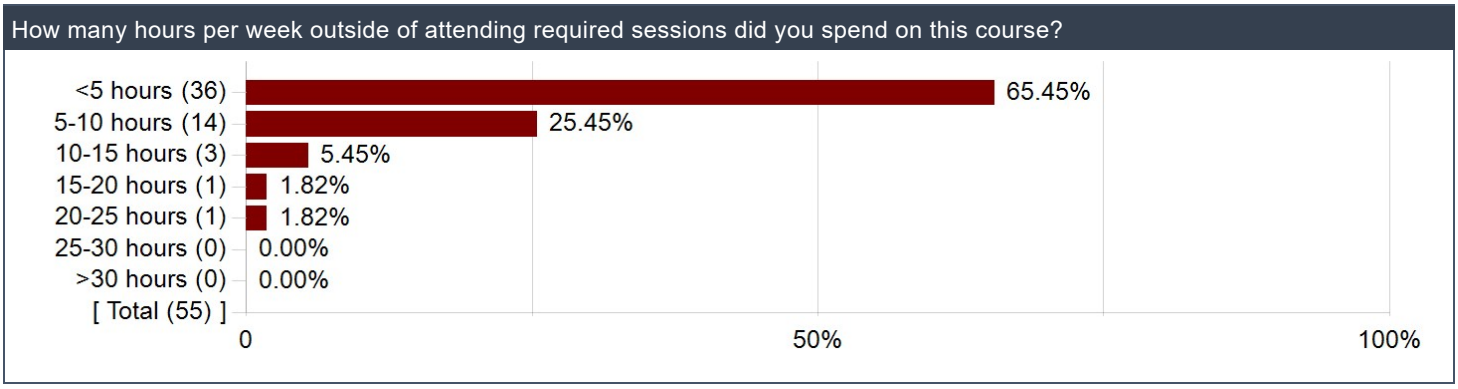
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



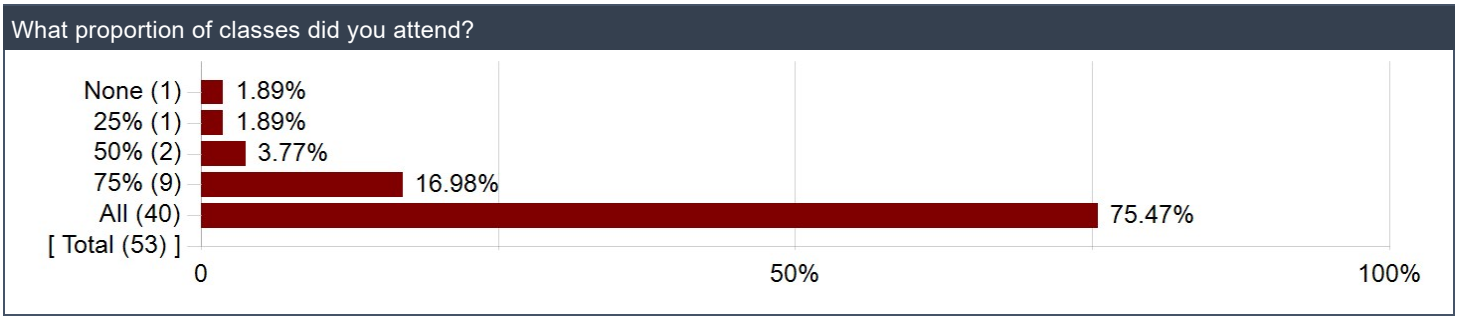
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?



What proportion of classes did you attend?



Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
relatively easy class but has extra commitments like a field trip and discussion sections
I took AP Bio but this goes way deeper in depth than anything learned in the evolution and ecology unit so no experience is necessary
Easy if you go to class. If you miss a lot of classes it's kinda hard to catch up
Easy
Hard
Not difficult at all! Very interesting course.
Was told the class is an easy A. its NOT. Class grade consists of assignments and single midterm and cumulative final. With effort and time into class, you can succeed. Manyyyy did not do well and professor had to recommend students to discuss options (withdraw, pass/fail) with advisor.
I have relatively weak Biology background so the content about DNA construction is a little bit challenging for me
The material itself isn't too difficult to understand, it's just that so much material is compounded in these 9 weeks (and we're talking about life–changing concepts) that it can be hard to grasp and fully understand them all.
good difficulty
Professor Jablonski makes the course very accessible to non CEGU, BIOS, GEOS majors
Few small projects throughout the quarter with a midterm and final – very doable for any major
it's kinda hard
Reasonable for core bio. You do have to study for the exams unlike other core bio where they are online but it is worth it for a more interesting class in my opinion. Other than studying for the midterm/final, this class is not very much work.
Only took bio in high school, but this class was very easy
The course was a bit difficult toward the beginning because I have minimal knowledge of biology and some topics were difficult to grasp but over time the material became familiar and I was able to understand
I'm not a STEM student, but I did fine and you will too if you take good notes and go to class.
Biz econ student with no stem background. The class was pretty easy as long as you pay attention to classes.
Managable with little prior experience (AP Bio), but coming to every lecture is an absolute necessity.
Not particularly difficult content to understand.
Not sure yet. Not too much work but I kinda got rocked on the midterm even though I felt prepared.
The level wasn't too difficult; it was challenging but as long as study effort was put in it was about easy–moderate
The course was not too challenging (my bio background is AP Biology); the emphasis was not on memorizing scientific names, specific genes/proteins, the dates of evolutionary events, etc. Most of my workload was taking diligent notes outside of class, which took a while to do by hand. I think the concepts can be understood by just about anyone if they're willing to do some reading, and the reading is not very technical.
Not incredibly difficult even if one is not well–versed in the biological sciences.
Relatively manageable
not too difficult but lots of memorization, esp the examples of evolutionary principles
Very manageable.

Comments
didn't take core bio and difficulty was fine
This is by far the easiest course I've taken at the University of Chicago, but I also feel like I got a lot out of it.
Not difficult. If you study the handouts and lectures, the exams should be easy.
Only background bio background was briefly from high school. I thought the course was interesting, but a little difficult in that there was SO MUCH material to grasp and connect to bigger concepts. Additionally, I thought the grading on the midterm was a little harsh given how loose and general the questions were written. However, if you are interested in a broad overview of interesting evolution concepts, this course will give you that (and Jablonski's lectures). As a bio topics core, this does the job, but you may have to put in a little extra effort in preparing for the midterm and final because they are worth so much of your final grade.
The course was not difficult as someone who's only biology experience is AP Bio.
very easy (coming from a bizecon major)
Not that difficult
I didn't do principles before this and I find the difficulty fine, just a lot of memorization
Not difficult at all despite not being a biology major of any sorts.
Eh idk, definitely easier than a lot of BIO courses but all depends on instructor, if you show up and paid attention I'm sure it wasn't especially difficult but god I could not pay attention
The class is not difficult at all if you attend the lectures and take notes!