

**COURSE QUESTIONNAIRE**

Your answers to these questions will help us to improve the course in the future. I value your honest feedback. You will receive extra credit for turning in the questionnaire **at the final exam**. An electronic copy is available at the website if you would prefer to type your answers.

**Instructions**

- a) Either circle the number (not the words) on each scale or fill in the blank.
- b) If you wish to remain *anonymous*, cut your name off the last page and turn it in separately.
- c) Be sure to turn in the questionnaire and your name at the final exam.

**I. GENERAL**

**Relative to other courses at this level...**

- 1) **...how interesting was the material?**  
not very interesting      1      2      3      4      5      very interesting
- 2) **...how much time did you invest?**  
less than typical      1      2      3      4      5      more than typical
- 3) **...how much did you learn?**  
less than typical      1      2      3      4      5      more than typical

**II. LECTURES**

- 4) **The amount/pace of material per lecture was...**  
too little      1      2      3      4      5      too much
- 5) **The level at which lecture material was delivered was...**  
too simple      1      2      3      4      5      too complex
- 6) **Would you want to increase (+), decrease (-), or keep similar (0) the coverage of:**  
Structure/function + - 0      Synthetic topics + - 0      Research + - 0
- 7) **Approximately how many of the 28 lecture periods did you miss?** \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) **Did you regularly take notes during the lecture?**      \_\_\_\_ yes      \_\_\_\_ no  
*If you answered "no," how did you mainly study for exams?*

- 9) **What were one or two of your favorite or most memorable lectures?**

### III. SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS

- 10) Check one box for each article:** (a) I read the article and learned something interesting.  
 (b) I read the article but do not remember anything interesting about it.  
 (c) I can't remember if I read the article.  
 (d) I did not read the article.

(a) (b) (c) (d)

- Porifera**  
    Tactics of acclimation: morphological changes of sponges in an unpredictable environment (Palumbi)
- Parasites**  
    Parasites that change the behavior of their host (Moore)  
    Controlling the schistosome at a snail's pace (Desowitz)
- Arthropods**  
    Switching skeletons (Taylor and Kier)  
    Effects of manipulated diet on performance of brachyuran crab claws (Smith and Palmer)  
    Precise tuning of barnacle leg length to wave action (Arsenault et al.)
- Echinoderms**  
    Catch connective tissue: the connective tissue with adjustable mechanical properties (Motokawa)
- History**  
    When we were worms (Holmes)  
    The breath of life--did increased oxygen levels trigger the Cambrian Explosion? (Thomas)
- Mechanisms**  
    Computer as aid in describing form in gastropod shells (Raup)  
    The Origin of Animal Body Plans (Erwin et al.)
- Modular growth**  
    What are dandelions and aphids? (Janzen)  
    Do corals lie about their age? (Jackson and Hughes)
- Physical biology**  
    Organisms that capture currents (Vogel)  
    Temperature and water viscosity: physiological vs. mechanical effects on suspension feeding (Podolsky)
- Plankton**  
    Predator evasion as an explanation of diurnal vertical migration by zooplankton (Stich and Lampert)
- Conservation**  
    The little things that run the world (Wilson)  
    Climate-Related, Long-Term Faunal Changes in a California Rocky Intertidal Community (Barry et al.)

- 11) What were one or two of your favorite or most memorable readings?**

#### IV. TEXTBOOK

12) What percentage of the assigned textbook material did you actually read? \_\_\_\_\_ %

13) How easy and informative did you find the textbook reading?

Difficult	1	2	3	4	5	Easy
Uninformative	1	2	3	4	5	Informative

*Comments:*

14) Did reading the text help to explain material covered in lecture?

Didn't help	1	2	3	4	5	Helped a lot
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15) If you could request a different text, would you want it to be more or less detailed?

Less detailed	1	2	3	4	5	More detailed
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#### V. EXAMS

16) Which kinds of exam questions do you feel are good for testing an understanding of the lecture/reading material?

Quick IDs	not as good	1	2	3	4	5	good
Jeopardy!	not as good	1	2	3	4	5	good
Short answers	not as good	1	2	3	4	5	good
True/False	not as good	1	2	3	4	5	good
Single choice	not as good	1	2	3	4	5	good
Multiple choice	not as good	1	2	3	4	5	good
False statements	not as good	1	2	3	4	5	good
Research/graphing	not as good	1	2	3	4	5	good
Reconstructing a phylogeny	not as good	1	2	3	4	5	good
Mapping traits on phylogeny	not as good	1	2	3	4	5	good

17) If you could give advice to someone studying for lecture/reading exams in future classes, what would it be?

18) If you could give advice to someone studying for the lab practical exams in future classes, what would it be?

## VI. LABORATORIES

**19) Please rate the importance and usefulness (low to high) of each of the following for learning material in the laboratory:**

Taxonomic information on worksheet	low	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	high
Other information on worksheet	low	1	2	3	4	5	high
Instructor attention during lab	low	1	2	3	4	5	high
Thought questions	low	1	2	3	4	5	high
Dissections	low	1	2	3	4	5	high
Working with other students	low	1	2	3	4	5	high

## VII. WRITING ASSIGNMENT

**20) How worthwhile: how much did you learn from the assignments given your effort?**

not worthwhile      **1**    **2**    **3**    **4**    **5**      very worthwhile

*Comments:*

**21) Do you feel your writing could improve in response to the feedback you received?**

no, even if I made the effort      **1**    **2**    **3**    **4**    **5**      yes, with effort

*Comments:*

**22) For the two report assignments, how did you first become interested in the topic?**

- A. Information mentioned in lecture
- B. Topics at the end of textbook chapter
- C. Readings from the textbook
- D. TBA readings
- E. Info from a different course
- F. Newspaper or other popular source
- G. Other (please specify)

Assignment #1:	Assignment #2:
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**23) For the two report assignments, how did you find the particular article(s)?**

- A. I searched on an online database using keywords
- B. I found the article at the back of a textbook chapter
- C. I found the article cited in another paper I read
- D. I learned about the article in another class
- E. Other (please specify)

Assignment #1:	Assignment #2:
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**VIII. FINAL COMMENTS**

**24) Would you recommend this course to a friend? Why or why not?**

**25) If you were teaching this course, what would you do differently?**

**26) What final grade do you expect to receive? \_\_\_\_\_**

**27) What final grade do you feel you deserve? \_\_\_\_\_**

Please bring the completed questionnaire to the final exam. If you wish to remain anonymous, cut between the dotted lines and turn your name in separately.

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**Extra credit for questionnaire**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_