BIOL 457 Advanced Ecology Lab (Evolution Lab)

Instructor: Dr. Jim Barron, office – Rm 132 Science, 657-2918  
Office Hours: MWF 10:30-11:30; Also By Appointment or Walk In ANYTIME  
Email: jbarron@msubillings.edu

Textbook: None

Expected Outcomes and Assessment (i.e. objectives and grading): The primary objectives in this course are to expose you to the primary literature of evolutionary research and to help you develop critical thinking skills. You will be assessed by your attendance at lab, your preparation and your participation in the discussions. For each lab period except the first, students will be able to earn a “grade” of 0, 1, 2 or 3. A student will receive a zero for missing lab, a 1 for attending but not participating or for not having prepared appropriately, a 2 for adequate preparation and participation, and a 3 for excellent preparation and participation. On days when the student must present the material, a grade of 3 will be earned only if the presentation is excellent. There will be 10 labs where papers will be discussed; thus, there will be a total of 30 points possible from attendance and participation. There will be two exams, each worth 10 points and covering the topics that were discussed in the previous labs. A few questions (approximately 4 or 5?) will be provided one week in advance. I will choose two of the questions on the day of the exam (5 points each), and students will write answers during lab (prepare ahead of time, but only bring blank paper and something to write with to exams). The total points for the lab will be 50.

Grades are guaranteed: 90-100%=A; 80-89%=B; 70-79%=C; 60-69%=D; below 60%=F

Extra Credit - I will not accept ANY ‘extra credit’ reports or other special projects for the purpose of raising grades. Please do not ask me if you can do a special project for extra credit to raise your grade.

Academic Misconduct: I WILL NOT TOLERATE CHEATING OR PLAGIARISM. A student caught cheating will receive a zero on the exam, potentially an F in the course, and a referral to the Student Affairs office.

Students with disabilities: Every effort will be made to accommodate students who have university-documented disabilities.
Readings for Biol 457 (Evolution Lab)

Jan. 24  Introduction and Organization

Jan. 31  General Overview I

Feb. 7   General Overview II

Feb. 14  Adaptation

Feb. 21  No Class – President’s Day

Feb. 28  Selection

March 7  No Class – Spring Break

March 14  Speciation – Overview
March 21  Exam I

March 28  Sympatric Speciation

April 4  Speciation – Examples

April 11  Sexual Selection

April 18  Evolution of Sex
April 25  Phenotypic Plasticity

May 5  Final Exam (8:00 – 9:50)