



## Final Project Guidelines

For your final project, you will have two choices: **CREATE** or **CRITIQUE**. **Create**: you produce a designed object (written/visual/audio, 2D/3D/4D, analog/digital) that illustrates a key concept or concepts from the class; or **Critique**: you write a critical essay which explores the connection between scientific understanding of the evolution of sex and a contemporary creative work (broadly defined).

### CREATE Project objectives:

1. Identify a key concept or concepts from the class that you find interesting or inspiring.
  - Feel free to do research on a topic of interest and contact your instructor to discuss your ideas and plans.
  - You should not restrict yourself to topics or concepts that we have covered in detail in the class.
2. Produce a designed object that illustrates this concept or concepts for a general audience.
  - This assignment is intended to compliment your major studies, so any media that you might employ for other classes is fair game: digital art, websites, flash, animation, jewelry, an advertisement, sculpture, film, short stories, poems, graphic design, photography, painting, fashion design, architectural blueprints, prints, 'zines, interior design, illustrations, or industrial design.
  - The best possible outcome for this project would be its incorporation into your portfolio.
  - While you will need to submit your work to your instructor, it will be returned to you by semester's end.
3. Describe in a *Project Summary* your goals and motivations in producing your work.
  - This summary should express to your audience the key scientific concept(s) from the class that you were inspired by, your creative motivations, and your goals in producing this object.
  - The summary must include an informative discussion of the science underlying your project.
  - To receive full credit, you must cite at least THREE SOURCES OF RELEVANT DATA. These sources could be papers from the primary literature, books, reports from reputable agencies/organizations, or online summaries of data posted on reputable sites. It should be clear from reading your *Project Summary* how each source contributed to your work. Please contact your instructor if you are unsure about the validity of data you have uncovered, particularly if it comes from the web.
  - This summary should be typed and limited to one page (although creative layout and presentation is encouraged).

### CRITIQUE Project objectives:

1. Identify contemporary a creative work that incorporates, expresses, or is inspired by scientific knowledge about the evolution of sex.
  - You may choose to critique the work of a particular person (multiple works will give more context to his/her work); you may also choose a group of people making related work.
  - The works you critique need not be in the same medium, but you should make clear how diverse works are related to each other.
  - If you have any question as to whether the work you are selecting is appropriate, please discuss your plans with your instructor.
  - Provide an accurate description of the work.
2. Discuss the specific scientific concepts that relate to your chosen work.
  - Identify the major scientific concepts relevant to how sex evolved that are incorporated into the work(s).
  - Provide some background by describing relevant scientific understandings. Make sure to describe how this scientific knowledge was accumulated and how controversial this area of evolutionary biology remains.
  - To receive full credit, you must cite at least THREE SOURCES OF RELEVANT DATA. These sources could be papers from the primary literature, books, reports from reputable agencies/organizations, or online summaries of data posted on reputable sites. Please contact your instructor if you are unsure about the validity of data you have uncovered, particularly if it comes from the web.

3. Critique the work in terms of the effectiveness of its incorporation of concepts from evolutionary biology and the validity of its scientific claims.
  - How well does each work you are considering express scientific concepts relevant to the evolution of sex?
  - Is the understanding depicted in each work consistent with accepted scientific understandings?
  - What new directions in this area of creative pursuit might be aided by additional scientific knowledge?
4. Describe your critique in a brief (150 word) *Project Summary*.
  - Include in your summary images, weblinks, and/or text that provide access to the work critiqued.

### **CRITIQUE paper format:**

1. Please present your work in type-written, double-spaced format. Font should be 12 point, margins should be 1" on all sides.
2. Produce at least four (4) and no more than seven (7) pages of double-space text.
3. Provide an *Appendix* (does not count towards page minimum or maximum) that either presents images of the work you are critiquing or directs your instructor to relevant websites or other accessible media that show the work. Make sure that you refer to all parts of the *Appendix* in the main text of your paper.
4. Reference all ideas that are not your own using a numbered *Bibliography* (does not count towards page minimum or maximum) appearing at the end of your paper. Both superscripts<sup>1</sup> and bracketed [2] citations are acceptable, but use a consistent format.

### **Citations:**

1. All citations must be referenced in the text. In referencing your citations, use the correct number from your numbered bibliography. For example: "Many animals are known to engage in multiple matings [6]."
2. Please use a standard bibliographical format and use it consistently.
3. Please be careful about web citations. Much of what is published on the web is unreliable. It is up to you to assess the validity of all your sources.
4. Internet references should be cited with a page title, a full URL address, and the date accessed. For example: Roach, Mary, *10 Things You Didn't Know About Orgasm*, TED Talks, [http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/mary\\_roach\\_10\\_things\\_you\\_didn\\_t\\_know\\_about\\_orgasm.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/mary_roach_10_things_you_didn_t_know_about_orgasm.html), Accessed 5-Feb-2011.

### **Proposals:**

You are required to submit a short project proposal by **Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup> @ 11:59 pm EST**. All proposals will be through the *LMS* system. Your instructor will post comments on *LMS* letting you know whether the project proposal is approved; if the proposal is not approved, you should contact your instructor during office hours, by phone, or via email.

### **Submission of the project:**

The project, including the required *Project Summary*, is due on **Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 11:59 pm EST**. Works that are electronic can be directly uploaded to the *LMS*. Works that are not electronic can be delivered during office hours; in order to avoid a late penalty, upload digital images of your work if you cannot deliver it by the deadline. *Project Summary* submission will be strictly electronic via the *LMS*. All written work must be typed and can be submitted in *Adobe PDF* format. There is a 10% penalty per day of lateness.

### **How you will be graded:**

Your grade will be primarily based on how well you meet the objectives stated above. In addition, your instructor will assess how well you expressed an understanding of ecological concepts. *Your project should clearly demonstrate what you have learned in this class.* All written work is expected to use proper spelling and grammar, except where obvious and necessary creative liberties are being taken with the language. Please see the *LMS* for sample grading sheets that provide you with a precise idea of how you will be graded.

### **On academic honesty:**

Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. All cases of suspected plagiarism will be turned over to the Registrar's office for potential referral to the academic judiciary. Please be careful to indicate the source of all ideas other than your own; this includes both direct quotes ("evolution is the science of...") and paraphrasing of books, scientific papers, and websites. Careful citation makes you seem more authoritative in whatever you write.