



Final Project Guidelines

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, but your focus *must* relate to the *evolution of sexual and/or reproductive characteristics*.
 - Identify sources you can use to inform your *Final Project*. Using search resources in the library and on the web, identify at least seven (7) sources that provide relevant information about your chosen subject. You are required to use at least one (1) book found in the Pratt library in your source list, and primary scientific literature will be valued over secondary or tertiary sources (especially when your source is a website). Please contact your instructor if you are unsure about the validity of sources you have uncovered, particularly if they come from the web.
 - Produce a concept map that will be the main feature of your *Project Proposal* (see below). This concept map should identify the key ideas and concepts you have researched, and show how these ideas are connected to each other and to “big ideas” in evolutionary biology. All sources and the ideas and/or information they contribute must also be on this concept map.
2. Produce a designed object that illustrates your key concept(s) for a general audience.
 - Although your work will be judged on how well it depicts ideas/concepts, it need not do so in a directly illustrative manner. Feel free to allow your creative work to be as abstract as you deem necessary, but make sure that you are prepared to explain in your *Project Summary* how you abstracted the ideas/concepts that form the basis of your project.
 - This assignment is intended to complement 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, critical analysis, 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, any analog work will be returned to you within two weeks of submission.
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.
 - It should be clear from reading your *Project Summary* how each source listed in your *Annotated Bibliography* (see below) contributed to your work.
4. Engage the class in a discussion of how you used design elements to depict important ideas/concepts related to the evolution of sexual and/or reproductive characteristics.
 - The class will take ~10 minutes to discuss the work of each student.
 - You should present the actual work and be ready to: 1) explain the intellectual/creative process that resulted in your completed work; and/or 2) answer questions from classmates.

Proposals:

You are required to submit a project proposal by **Thursday, November 7th @ 11:59 pm EST**. All proposals will be through the *LMS* system. All project proposals must include a concept map that:

- A. Shows the sources that you used to inform your project and the ideas and information provided by these sources;
- B. Shows all of the key ideas and concepts that are important to realizing your project, including their relationships and how they relate to “big ideas” in evolutionary biology;
- C. Shows design elements you plan to incorporate into your creative project; and
- D. Connects the sources that informed your project (from “A” above) to the ideas/concepts that you want to depict (from “B” above) to the design elements you plan to use (from “C” above) and the creative media you plan to employ.

For more help on how to create this concept map, go to <http://wp.me/p1BPr1-1pB>. In addition to the required concept map, you may also include explanatory text in the “notes” section of the *LMS* submission page or on your concept map itself. Your instructor will post comments on *LMS* in response to your proposal; if you have any questions about this feedback, you should contact your instructor during office hours, by phone, or via email. You are highly encouraged to submit a proposal well before the deadline, as you will only have two weeks to complete your project if you wait until the last minute to submit your proposal.

Format of the *Project Summary & Annotated Bibliography*:

1. Please present your *Project Summary* in type-written, **single-spaced** format. The font should be 12 point, margins should be 1” on all sides.
2. Produce no more than two (2) pages of **single-spaced** text.
3. Along with the main *Project Summary*, also provide a numbered *Annotated Bibliography* (does not count towards page maximum) that: a) lists each of the sources you used to inform your project in a standard citation format (see below); and b) provides a short paragraph summarizing what information/ideas/concepts this source contributed to your project.
4. Reference all ideas that are not your own using your numbered *Annotated Bibliography*. Both superscripts¹ 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, Accessed 5-Feb-2011.

Submission of the project:

The project, including the required *Project Summary & Annotated Bibliography*, is due on **Thursday, November 21st @ 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 at least three digital images of your work to the *LMS* as single *PDF* file. *Project Summary & Annotated Bibliography* 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. For more information on the course plagiarism policy see the syllabus and this site: <http://www.christopherxjensen.com/teaching/for-students/#no-plagiarism>.