



## Midterm Paper Guidelines

### Paper objectives:

1. Identify a specific scientific question about how particular sexual behavior(s) and/or characteristic(s) evolved.
  - Use initial library and internet research to investigate topics of interest and create a list of possible questions. While it is fine to find inspiration in the mandatory readings for the class, you cannot choose a question that is explicitly answered by one of the authors we have/will read: the question you choose should require independent research and thought on your part.
  - Consider which question(s) can best fulfill the remaining requirements of the paper.
  - Narrow your topic down to a single, specific question. This question should be about particular behavior(s) and/or characteristic(s) displayed by a particular species or related group of species.
  - Describe the organism that is the focus of your paper, explain the particular sexual behavior(s) and/or characteristic(s) that are relevant to your paper, and clearly introduce and explain your question.
2. Identify and explain hypotheses that answer this question.
  - Use library and internet research to discover hypotheses that have been suggested to answer your question.
  - Feel free to add your own hypotheses, particularly if these differ from the hypotheses suggested by your research sources.
  - You must identify at least two alternative hypotheses that answer your question.
  - Describe the explanation provided by each hypothesis, making it clear how it provides an answer to your question. Compare and contrast the explanations made by the different hypotheses that you have identified.
3. List and explain the predictions made by different hypotheses.
  - Create a *Table* in your *Appendix* (see below) that compares and contrasts the predictions made by different hypotheses. Different predictions may fall into different categories, so use the table structure to demonstrate these different categories.
  - Discuss these predictions, explaining why different hypotheses make different predictions.
4. Discuss how these predictions have been or could be tested.
  - If specific scientific studies have tested any of the predictions you identified, describe and explain how these studies were conducted (their “methods”). Make it clear what kind of experiment or other confrontation with data was used to test particular predictions. Summarize the results obtained by each study and make it clear whether particular predictions were confirmed or rejected.
  - If you are not able to find specific scientific studies that test some or all of your predictions, propose some ways in which these tests might be undertaken. What methods should be used to conduct these tests? What kind of data will be collected? What results would confirm particular predictions? What results would refute particular predictions?

### **Proposals:**

You are required to submit a short project proposal by Thursday, **October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 @ 11:59 pm**. All proposals will be through the *LMS* system. Your instructor will post comments on the *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.

### **Format of the Paper:**

1. Please present your work in type-written, **single-spaced** format. Font should be 12 point, margins should be 1" on all sides.
2. Produce at least two (2) and no more than four (4) pages of **single-spaced** text.
3. Provide an *Appendix* (does not count towards page minimum or maximum) that presents figures, charts, images, or other helpful auxiliary information to support your paper. Label each part of your *Appendix* with a letter (for example, the first item will be "Appendix A"). Make sure that you refer to all parts of the *Appendix* in the main text of your paper.
4. Reference all ideas and images that are not your own using a numbered *Bibliography* (does not count towards page minimum or maximum) appearing at the end of your paper (please do not use footnotes). Both superscripts<sup>1</sup> and bracketed [2] citations are acceptable, but use a consistent format.

### **Bibliography and Citations:**

1. Your bibliography must contain at least ten sources. Of these sources, at least one must be from the Pratt library and at least three must be from the primary literature. Speak to your instructor if you are not clear on what this means.
2. All citations must be referenced in the text. In referencing your citations, use the correct number from your numbered bibliography. *For example*: "Methane released by livestock represents a major contribution to greenhouse gas emissions [6]."
3. Please use a standard bibliographical format and use it consistently.
4. 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.
5. Internet references should be cited with an author, page title, a full URL address, and the date accessed. *For example*: Jensen, Christopher X J., "The Quest for the Perfect Hive", <http://www.christopherxjensen.com/2010/06/07/the-quest-for-the-perfect-hive/>, Accessed 9-Sept-2013.

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

This project is due on Thursday, **October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012 @ 11:59 pm EST**. All papers should be directly uploaded to the *Learning Management System* 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 evolutionary concepts. 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>.