

**Syllabus**  
**Evolution - PCB 4674**  
**RVC 79520**

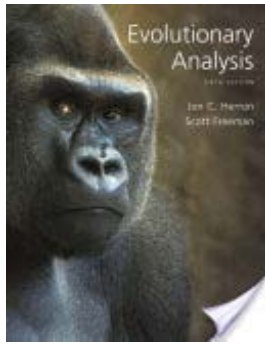
Fall 2018, Online



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**Course Description:** This is a survey course of modern evolutionary theory, including: its historical development, the empirical and experimental evidence for evolution from a variety of scientific disciplines, historical patterns, the theoretical foundation of evolutionary biology, controversies and current issues in evolutionary theory, and natural selection as an evolutionary mechanism.

**Prerequisites:** The prerequisites for this course are: PCB 3043, Ecology, and PCB 3063, Genetics, completed with a satisfactory grade (C or better).



**Textbook: Evolutionary Analysis** by Jon C. Herron and Scott Freeman, Pearson, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2014, eTextbook \$34.99 (6-month subscription), eText ISBN 9780321998378, <https://www.vitalsource.com/referral?term=9780321998378>

**On-line labs through Simbio:** In addition to your textbook, you will need to purchase access to four online labs from [SimBio](#). The course-specific registration link for this class is at: <https://www.simutext.com/student/register.html#/key/Ud2a-GgEx-48U8-x6EU-Jffc>

CHECK YOUR TECH! Visit <https://simutext.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/categories/200170134-Check-Your-Tech-> to confirm that the SimUText application will work on your computer, and/or to explore your options if there is a problem. After you have completed the subscription process, if you need to download the SimUText application installers again, you will be able to access them by logging into the [SimUText Student Portal](#) (<https://www.simutext.com/student/>)  
Should you encounter problems, you may need your course-specific Access Key. It is: **Ud2a-GgEx-48U8-x6EU-Jffc**

Problems or questions? Visit [SimUText Support](#) (<http://simbio.com/support/simutext>)

## Tentative Course Schedule

Week	Topic(s)	Part	Chapter
Aug 20 (1)	Course Organization/Introduction	1	
Aug 27 (2)	Science and Evolution	1	
Sep 3 (3)	Evolutionary Perspectives on HIV	1	1
Sep 10 (3)	Overview: The evidence for Evolution	1	2
Sep 17 (4)	Understanding Natural Selection <a href="#">Finches and Evolution Lab</a>	1	3
Sep 24 (5)	Tree Thinking: Evolutionary trees <a href="#">Flowers and Trees Lab</a>	1	4
Oct 1 (6)	<b>EXAM 1</b>	4	
Oct 8 (7)	Deep Time: The Early History of Life on Earth	4	17
Oct 15 (8)	The Cambrian Explosion and the Record of Multicellular Life	4	18
Oct 22 (9)	Human Evolution	4	20
Oct 29 (10)	<b>EXAM 2</b>		
Nov 5 (11)	The Origins of Genetic Variation	2	5
Nov 12 (12)	Change in Populations 1: Mutation and Selection <a href="#">Mendelian Pigs Lab</a>	2	6
Nov 19 (13)	Change in Populations 2: Migration, Drift, and Nonrandom mating, <a href="#">Genetic Drift and Bottlenecked Ferrets Lab</a>	2	7
Nov 26 (14)	Adaptation and Tradeoffs	3	10, 13
Dec 3 (16)	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>		

### Office Hours and Other Means of Communication

#### Office Hours: Mondays 11-3PM AHC1, Room 319C

I will be available for questions and help outside of office hours. However, if you need to meet outside office hours **PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL IN ADVANCE TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT** (I may be reached by phone or email. Please identify yourself by name as your e-mail name may not clearly identify who you are (I will not know who "#1Dolfan" is). Please include the following in the email subject: "Evolution, (add your LAST NAME, FIRST NAME)".

**Important announcements regarding the progress and organization of the course will be posted in the FIU-Canvas educational tool (<https://canvas.fiu.edu>).**

These notifications will be sent to **YOUR FIU EMAIL ACCOUNT** associated with FIU-Canvas. Please **check regularly** for important messages (in case you don't check your FIU email account that often, YOU MUST MAKE SURE that you have it linked to your main email account).

Please note that questions about exam content will NOT be answered during the exam interval. Issues regarding the course will be DISCUSSED between the Professor and the student; **third parties (such as relatives, spouses, friends, class-mates) CANNOT be involved in any discussions concerning any particular issue that the student may have during this course.** These issues include but are not limited to grades, class performance, etc.

### **Academic Integrity**

*“Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas, and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and to honestly demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Handbook.”* **The**

**The “Student Handbook” will be STRICTLY ENFORCED regarding cheating.**

Procedures for both formal and informal procedures can be found under the section “Academic Misconduct” in the “Conduct & Policies” chapter. Anyone caught cheating will be asked to leave the class, will be given an “F” for the whole course and a petition will be sent to Academic Affairs.

### **Test Banks**

Self-evaluation tests with multiple choice questions (and their corresponding answers) will be available in Blackboard after each session (consisting of 5 questions/each per session). Results from these tests WILL NOT be taken into account for the final grade, on the contrary, these tests will give students a hint on which topics are more relevant, types of questions in the exams, etc.

## Exams and Grades

There will be **THREE exams (two midterm exams and a final exam)**. The exams will consist of **100 multiple choice test questions** (only one correct answer possible). Exam questions may include some of the self-test questions. Exams will be available for a 48-hour interval starting on Wednesday at 11:59 PM, and ending Friday at 11:59 PM. You will have two hours and twenty minutes to take the exam during this interval. Please note that if you start the exam with less than two hours and twenty minutes left in the exam interval, you will not have the full time for the exam. So, don't wait until the last minute to begin your exam. **Make-up exams will not be in the same format as regular exams. They will be short answer and essay questions.**

Exams will be graded on the basis of the number of correct answers). The **FINAL GRADE** will be the **sum of the grades obtained in the MIDTERMS and the FINAL exams.**

Final grades will be calculated as:

Grade	Point total
<b>A</b>	<b>300 - 286 points</b>
<b>A-</b>	<b>285 - 271 points</b>
<b>B+</b>	<b>270 - 261 points</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>260 - 251 points</b>
<b>B-</b>	<b>250 - 241 points</b>
<b>C+</b>	<b>240 - 231 points</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>231 - 210 points</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>209 - 180 points</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>&lt; 180 points</b>

Grades will be posted on the **FIU-Canvas educational tool** (<https://canvas.fiu.edu>), and students will be informed through email. All students must check their grades as soon as they are posted. Students will be allowed to check their exams during a two-week period after the grades of each exam are posted. Students will have a second opportunity to check their exams after the final grade of the course is officially posted. **Make-up exams will not be in the same format as regular exams. They will be short answer and essay questions.**