

BIOLOGY 494- Senior Seminar in Biology

VERTEBRATE EVOLUTIONARY ECOLOGY JOURNAL CLUB

FALL 2009

Holt Hall 235, Thursday 5-6P

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Office Hrs: Tues. 10:30-11:30 A

Thurs. 1-3P

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This one-unit course is designed for students interested in vertebrate evolutionary ecology/biology. BIOL 494 will expose students to selected papers from leading scientific journals (e.g., Ecology, Evolution, American Naturalist, etc.). This semester's topic will be:

Late Pleistocene-Holocene Vertebrate Extinctions Resulting from "Cultural Overkill"

Students will be asked to:

- (1) Sign up for a presentation date or dates during the first class meeting.
- (2) Get the **instructor's approval** for their selected paper(s); this should be done at least two weeks prior to the actual presentation date. **Best to bring in 2-3 papers** for the instructors review.
- (3) Provide copies of the paper for the instructor and each student one **full week prior to the** presentation. Also, please provide

the instructor with **3 additional copies** for other interested students, faculty, etc.

(4) Present their paper (15-20 minute summary of the paper), and then lead the discussion of that paper

(5) Turn in a **printed sheet having 4 questions generated while reading that week's paper**; this sheet is **due at the beginning of class**. Also, each student will be expected to **pose at least one of their questions during the discussion of that paper**.

GRADING

Students enrolled in this course will receive a Credit/No Credit grade based upon (1) Attendance, (2) Preparedness, (3) Participation in weekly discussions, (4) Completion of weekly assignments, and (5) Presentation quality.

It should be noted that a solid presentation(s) alone will not earn you a credit grade for this course.

POLICIES

- 1.) **Attendance is considered mandatory. Students missing TWO OR MORE CLASS MEETINGS without serious and/or compelling reasons (see CSUC catalog for definition) will receive a No-Credit grade for this course.**
- 2.) **Please be on time! Tardiness is unacceptable.**
- 3.) **Please keep cell phones turned off at all times during class meetings.**

