

### COURSE QUESTIONNAIRE

Your answers to these questions will help me to improve the course in the future. I value your honest feedback. You will receive extra credit for turning in the questionnaire **at the final exam**. An electronic copy is available at the website if you would prefer to type your answers.

#### Instructions

- a) Either circle the number (not the words) on each scale or fill in the blank.
- b) To remain anonymous, do not add your name, but check off your name on the envelope.
- c) Be sure to turn in the questionnaire at the final exam.

#### I. GENERAL

Relative to your 100-level biology courses ...

- 1) ...how interesting was the material?  
less interesting      1      2      3      4      5      more interesting
- 2) ...how challenging was the material?  
less challenging      1      2      3      4      5      more challenging
- 3) ...how much time did you invest?  
less than typical      1      2      3      4      5      more than typical
- 4) ...how much did you learn?  
less than typical      1      2      3      4      5      more than typical

#### II. LECTURES

- 5) The amount of material per lecture was...  
too little      1      2      3      4      5      too much
- 6) The level at which lecture material was covered was...  
too simple      1      2      3      4      5      too complex
- 7) How much of our course material repeated what you covered in 111/112?      \_\_\_\_ %
- 8) Approximately how many of the 26 lecture periods did you miss?      \_\_\_\_
- 9) Did you regularly take notes during the lecture?      \_\_\_\_ yes      \_\_\_\_ no  
*If you answered "no," how did you mainly study for exams?*

10) What was your favorite or most memorable topic from each 1/3 of the course?

Part 1: Populations
Part 2: Communities, Ecosystems, and the Biosphere
Part 3: Phylogenetics and Biodiversity

### III. TEXTBOOK

11) What percentage of the recommended textbook material did you read? \_\_\_\_\_ %

12) How easy, informative, and interesting did you find the textbook reading?

Difficult	1	2	3	4	5	Easy
Uninformative	1	2	3	4	5	Informative
Uninteresting	1	2	3	4	5	Interesting

Comments:

13) Did reading the text help to reinforce material covered in lecture and help you to do better on exams?

Did not help	1	2	3	4	5	Helped a lot
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*If your answer to 11 was >25%:*

14) If you have used a different college-level text in the past (e.g., by Campbell), would you judge our text (Freeman) to be better or worse, based on the criteria above?

Worse	1	2	3	4	5	Better
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Author of other text: \_\_\_\_\_

### IV. SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS

15) Check one box for each article:

- (a) I read the article and learned/remember an interesting detail about it.
- (b) I read the article and found it somewhat interesting, but don't remember details.
- (c) I read the article but do not remember anything interesting about it.
- (d) I did not read the article.

(a) (b) (c) (d)

- Artificial bat roosts and forest regeneration (Reid et al. 2013)
- Tracking the long-term decline and recovery of an isolated population (Westemeier et al. 1998)
- Bottom-up effects on persistence: ant invasions and horned lizards (Suarez and Case 2002)
- The ecology of a New England salt marsh (Bertness 1992)

## V. EXAMS

**16) Which kinds of exam questions do you feel are effective for testing understanding of the lecture/reading material?**

Quick IDs	not as effective	1	2	3	4	5	very effective
Jeopardy!	not as effective	1	2	3	4	5	very effective
Short answers	not as effective	1	2	3	4	5	very effective
Single choice	not as effective	1	2	3	4	5	very effective
Multiple choice	not as effective	1	2	3	4	5	very effective
False statements	not as effective	1	2	3	4	5	very effective
Mapping traits	not as effective	1	2	3	4	5	very effective

**17) What advice would you give to someone studying for lecture/reading exams?**

## VII. RECITATION

**PROJECT 1: Answering original questions using data: Excel skills, graphical skills, data analysis, poster presentation**

**18) How worthwhile was the project, in terms of the amount learned relative to effort?**

not worthwhile      1      2      3      4      5      very worthwhile

**19) How well do you think the tasks prepared you for similar coursework in the future?**

not well prepared      1      2      3      4      5      well prepared

**20) How effective was the project in making you familiar with what biologists do?**

not effective      1      2      3      4      5      highly effective

*Comments:*

**PROJECT 2: Designing original research: literature skills, identifying questions, experimental design, writing**

**21) How worthwhile was the project, in terms of the amount learned relative to effort?**

not worthwhile      1      2      3      4      5      very worthwhile

**22) How well do you think the project prepared you for similar coursework in the future?**

not well prepared      1      2      3      4      5      well prepared

**23) How effective was the project in making you familiar with what biologists do?**

not effective      1      2      3      4      5      highly effective

**24) Do you feel that feedback you received could help to improve your science and writing?**

no, even if I made the effort      1      2      3      4      5      yes, with effort

*Comments:*

**PROJECT 3: Phylogenetic inference and hypothesis testing**

**25) How worthwhile was the project, in terms of the amount learned relative to effort?**

not worthwhile      1      2      3      4      5      very worthwhile

**26) How well do you think the project prepared you for similar coursework in the future?**

not well prepared      1      2      3      4      5      well prepared

**27) How effective was the project in making you familiar with what biologists do?**

not effective      1      2      3      4      5      highly effective

*Comments:*

**VIII. FINAL COMMENTS**

**28) What was the most valuable aspect of the course?**

**29) What was the least valuable major aspect of the course?**

**30) If you were teaching this course, what would you do differently?**

**31) What final grade do you expect to receive? \_\_\_\_\_**

**32) What final grade do you feel you deserve? \_\_\_\_\_**

*Please bring the completed questionnaire to the final exam. If you wish to remain anonymous, do not write your name below, but be sure to check off your name on the envelope where you place the questionnaire. A copy of the questionnaire is also available at the website.*

Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_