

Biology 886- Sexual Selection Spring 2019

Instructor: Dr. Nicholas Hobbs

Office: 201F Bruner Hall

Office Hours: 10:00am – 11:00am Monday, 9:00am – 10:00am Wednesday, and 2:30pm – 3:30pm Thursday, or by appointment

Office Phone: 308-865-1572

Email: hobbsjn@unk.edu

NOTE: Email is my preferred method of contact, if you inquire about a personal issue. Please give me 24 hours to respond to all emails. General questions about the course can be posted on the Frequently Asked Questions Discussion Board in Canvas.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Group discussion of the mechanisms of sexual selection and its role in evolution using classic and recent scientific literature

REQUIRED READINGS: Reading material will be assigned every week, consisting of 1-2 PDFs of scientific articles. These materials will be made available on Canvas (<https://canvas.unk.edu>). As these materials are the basis for the online discussions, it is expected that you complete the readings in a timely manner. Some links on Canvas will link directly to a PDF of the article. **To access other articles, after clicking on the link on Canvas, select “Locate full text of this item” (or something similar) on the left side of the page.**

REQUIRED MATERIALS/SOFTWARE: As this is an online class, you will need a computer/laptop with access to the internet, a microphone, and the following programs: Microsoft PowerPoint, Microsoft Word, Adobe Acrobat or another program to read PDFs, and VidGrid (a screen capture program available through Canvas).

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Identify the similarities and differences between sexual selection with natural selection.
- 2) Differentiate between intrasexual and intersexual competition, and provide examples of each.
- 3) Describe the conflict between the sexes and how it relates to different mating and parenting strategies.
- 4) Apply critical thinking skills to construct an argument using data to support the claim.

COURSE ORGANIZATION: This course consists of an introduction, 13 weekly discussions, and a wrap-up week. At the beginning of each week, I will upload the reading materials to Canvas and post the discussion topic(s). Each week, you are expected to contribute at least 5 posts: an initial post responding to that week’s prompt, 2 posts responding to the initial prompt of two classmates, and 2 posts that respond to posts of classmates on your initial post. As such, you should make **at least** 5 posts for

each weekly discussion. Discussion boards will be unlocked on Mondays at 12:01am CST and locked on Sundays at 11:59pm CST. You must submit your initial discussion post in order to comment on your classmates' posts. **Your comments and replies to classmates' posts should move the discussion forward. Therefore, posts such as "Excellent point! I hadn't thought of that," will be worth no credit.**

I expect you to make your posts in a timely manner (i.e. not at the very end of the week where no one will have a chance to respond). Your posts should begin with a topic sentence, followed by evidence/data supporting your claim (argument). Quality posts will include **in-text references to primary research literature** in support of your argument. You will include the references used at the end of your post. Here is an example of an in-text citation followed by properly formatted reference:

Anisogamy is an example of unequal investment between males and females (Kokko et al., 2006).

Kokko H, Jennions MD, Brooks R. 2006. Unifying and testing models of sexual selection. *Annu Rev Ecol Evol Syst* 37:43-66.

Make sure to proofread your responses for spelling and grammar prior to submitting them for discussion. Please contact me or use the FAQ Board on Canvas if you have questions about formatting citations and references.

As this is an online format, tone and expression may not be readily discerned from your posts. Please avoid the use of online or text message abbreviations or symbols. Your posts should show respect for the views and experiences of your other classmates. I will remove any offensive posts from the board and these posts will not be considered for grading purposes.

Below is the rubric I will use to grade discussion posts:

Criterion	Points		
Contributes at least twice to discussion	0	1	2
Posts are made in a timely manner	0	1	2
Posts are relevant to the discussion topic	0	1	2
Evidence of thoughtful analysis	0	1	2
Reads and responds to ideas of classmates	0	1	2
Total weekly discussion points	_____ / 10		

TERM PAPER: Students will be assigned one term paper, 5-7 pages in length (excluding references, tables and figures, etc.) The due date for this paper is listed in the Course Outline section below. More detailed instructions on how to format and submit the paper can be found on Canvas. Late papers will be penalized **20% per day late.**

GRADING SCALE: Grades will be calculated based on the following assignments: 1) completion of a Syllabus Quiz (10 pts), 2) submitting an introduction post using VidGrid (10 pts), 3) participation in weekly discussions (130 pts), and 4) a term paper due at the end of the semester (50 pts; see term paper section for details). The final course grade (out of 200 possible points) is assigned as a letter grade using the following scale:

A+ 99-100%	B+ 87-89%	C+ 77-79%	D+ 67-69%	F < 60%
A 93-98%	B 83-86%	C 73-76%	D 63-66%	
A- 90-92%	B- 80-82%	C- 70-72%	D- 60-62%	

COURSE OUTLINE:

Week	Beginning	Topic	Reading Assignment
1	Jan 7	Introduction	
2	Jan 14	Sexual Selection & Sexual Conflict	Kokko et al., 2006; Hosken & House, 2011
3	Jan 21	Sexual Selection in Males and Females	Clutton-Brock, 2007; Rosvall, 2011
4	Jan 28	Mating Systems	Emlen & Oring, 1977; Aloise King et al., 2013
5	Feb 4	Mate Choice	Jones & Ratterman, 2009; Fitzpatrick & Servedio, 2017
6	Feb 11	Postcopulatory Sexual Selection	delBarco-Trillo & Ferkin, 2004; Eberhard, 2009
7	Feb 18	Honest/Costly Signals, part 1	Zahavi, 1975; Számadó & Penn, 2015
8	Feb 25	Honest/Costly Signals, part 2	Kodric-Brown & Brown, 1984; Doutrelant et al., 2012
9	Mar 4	Runaway Sexual Selection	Brooks, 2000; Chandler et al., 2012
10	Mar 11	Parental Investment	Trivers, 1972
11	Mar 18	SPRING BREAK	
12	Mar 25	Sex Role Reversal	Forsgren et al. 2004; Geberzahn et al.; 2009
13	Apr 1	Polyandry	Zeh & Zeh, 2003
14	Apr 8	Female Promiscuity	Fitzpatrick et al., 2009; Panova et al., 2010
15	Apr 15	Sexual Selection/Sexual Conflict in Humans	Mulder & Rauch, 2009; Puts, 2010
16	Apr 22	Course Wrap-up	Term paper due Wed., Apr 24 by 11:59 PM CST

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: UNK's policy is the maintenance of academic honesty and integrity is a vital concern of the University community. This policy is stated in the Graduate Catalog or at <http://catalog.unk.edu/graduate/academics/academic-regulations/expectations-in-the-classroom/academic-integrity-policy/>. Any student found

in violation of this policy will be subjected to both academic and disciplinary sanctions. Violation of this policy includes Plagiarism, Cheating, Fabrication and Falsification, and Other Acts of Academic Dishonesty.

You are encouraged to make use of the online tools and resources provided at www.plagiarism.org/ to help you identify the various types of plagiarism, learn how to effectively paraphrase, as well as adequately cite your sources.

POLICY ON INCOMPLETES: Under very unusual circumstances an “Incomplete” may be assigned. To be considered for an “Incomplete” in Biology 886:

1. You must submit the reasons you cannot complete the scheduled work. This must include a copy of your class schedule and description of your responsibilities outside the classroom. This should be done in writing and include confirmation from your employer when appropriate.
2. You must specify the assignments you have missed and a schedule of plans to complete them

Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of the University of Nebraska at Kearney to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to students with documented disabilities. To receive accommodation services for a disability, students must be registered with UNK Disabilities Services Coordinator, David Brandt, in the Academic Success Office, 163 Memorial Student Affairs Building, 308-865-8214 or by email unkdso@unk.edu

Students who are Pregnant

It is the policy of the University of Nebraska at Kearney to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to students who are pregnant. To receive accommodation services due to pregnancy, students must contact Cindy Hayes in Student Health, 308-865-8218. The following link provides information for students and faculty regarding pregnancy rights. <http://www.nwlc.org/resource/pregnant-and-parenting-students-rights-faqs-college-and-graduate-students>

Reporting Student Sexual Harassment, Sexual Violence or Sexual Assault

Reporting allegations of rape, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and stalking enables the University to promptly provide support to the impacted student(s), and to take appropriate action to prevent a recurrence of such sexual misconduct and protect the campus community. Confidentiality will be respected to the greatest degree possible. Any student who believes she or he may be the victim of sexual misconduct is encouraged to report to one or more of the following resources: Local Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault Advocacy Agency: 308-237-2599

Campus Police (or Security): 308-865-8911

Title IX Coordinator: 308-865-8655

Retaliation against the student making the report, whether by students or University employees, will not be tolerated.

If you have questions regarding the information in this email please contact Mary Chinnock Petroski, Chief Compliance Officer (petroskimj@unk.edu or phone 8400).

Problems/Questions

If you have questions then ask or come and see me or contact me via e-mail or phone. If you are having problems with the course come and see me before it is too late (not the week before your term paper is due or when the course is over).