

Phylogenetic Systematics Seminar – BOT6935/ZOO6927 - Fall 2024

Credits: 1

Schedule: Mondays, 9:35-10:25

Location: Carr Hall 222

Instructors

Pam Soltis (psoltis@flmnh.ufl.edu)

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Office hours: by appointment

Course description

In this seminar, we will be reading and discussing recently published papers on a variety of topics within the field of phylogenetic systematics. Discussions will be led by students, with assistance from a faculty mentor.

Objectives and basis for grading

- 1) You are required to meet with your mentor a few weeks in advance of the date you will lead the discussion. When you do so, you should have selected two or three possible papers. We are looking for papers that will be of broad interest to the group of students assembled. While not every paper can and should be from *Systematic Biology* or *PNAS*, please pick more "exemplar group" paper options with care.
- 2) The meeting with your mentor should occur at least a week before the next class so that you can get the feedback you need and the paper out to the class in a reasonable time frame.
- 3) You should have a second meeting - or at worst provide slides via email - to your faculty mentor for feedback well before the presentation. We recommend Friday before the Monday class, but we know you may have accommodating mentors who are ok with weekend missives. Please don't wait until the very last second.
- 4) Everybody not presenting will be tasked with asking a question of interest about the paper in a supplied Google Doc before class. You don't need to ask the question during the discussion, but providing a written question is a requirement.

5) Your mentors are willing to help you evaluate possible papers for selection. Mentors are also willing to answer questions and meet during the week you are working on presentations. Take advantage (in a good way) of this offer for help.

Grading

Activity	% of final grade
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Class participation	25
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Presentation	75
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94.0-100%	A
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90.0-93.9%	A-
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87.0-89.9%	B+
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84.0-86.9%	B
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80.0-83.9 %	B-
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77.0-79.9%	C+
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74.0-76.9%	C
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70.0-73.9%	C-
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67.0-69.9%	D+
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64.0-66.9%	D
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60.0-63.9%	D-
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<60%	E
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Assignments and attendance policy: attendance at class is mandatory, and students should be prepared to justify absences.

Course textbooks: no textbook required

Course outline: see schedule of presentations in Canvas