

HONORS COLLEGE - COURSE CONTRACT

Student Name: E

Student Banner ID: XXXXXXXXXX

Course: BIOL3010 - 003 - Comparative Anatomy - Credit Hours 4

Term: Spring 2016

Professor: A.

Initiated By: Suzanne P. Hunter on 01-05-2016

Comments:

This contract needs to be completed by the 15th class day.

Professor A. approved on 01-20-2016

Optional Comments:

No Comment Entered

Department Head B. approved on 01-20-2016

Department Head Comments:

No Comment Entered

CONTRACT DETAILS:

1. Describe the Honors component of the course, discussing the nature of the project, how this project constitutes "Honors," and the nature of the "consolidating experience". Be as specific as possible in describing what you will do, including references to specific readings and/or methodologies where appropriate, lengths of required papers or reports, number and nature of presentations, etc. Research papers are typically 8-10 double spaced pages but certain other projects may include a shorter report.

E will present an 8-10 paper on the evolution of the morphology of ratites (the group of birds that includes ostriches, emus, and cassowaries). E will research the different hypotheses of phylogenetic relationships for the birds and the consequences for the evolution of their morphology, including the evolution of flightlessness. E will use Google Scholar to find recent phylogenetic hypotheses for the ratites and papers on their morphology. He will present his sources at the mid-semester date and have the paper ready by the last day of class. The paper will have an introduction stating the problems with ratite phylogenetic hypotheses, a section comparing and contrasting the different phylogenetic hypotheses (include what types of characters were used in the hypotheses), a section comparing some specific anatomical systems and how they evolve under different scenarios (particularly systems involved with flightlessness, E will consult with me on other systems to include by mid-semester), and a conclusion where E takes a side on what he believes to be the best interpretation.

2. How does the Honors component differ from normal course expectations (a copy of the syllabus may be provided to illustrate)? Address if the Honors component will be factored into the final grade in the course and, if so, what the grading expectations will be.

This paper goes above and beyond the standard comparative anatomy experience. In comparative anatomy, we talk broadly about changes in anatomical systems through time across major vertebrate groups, but do not get into the specifics of important cases like the ratites, nor do we much discuss the implications of different phylogenetic interpretations for the evolution of morphology. With the ratites, the different phylogenetic hypotheses that have been presented in recent years have profound implications for the understanding of their evolution, and it represents a case of unsettled science. Paper is not required of comparative anatomy students. This paper will count for 100 points, and will be in addition to the standard point scale for the course. A final grade in the course will be determined by E's average in comparison with others in the class (will have to maintain a 90% for an A, etc.).

HONORS COLLEGE - COURSE CONTRACT

Student Name: C

Student Banner ID: XXXXXXXXX

Course: BIOL1030 - 002 - Organismal Biology - Credit Hours 4

Term: Spring 2016

Professor: F.

Initiated By: Suzanne P. Hunter on 01-27-2016

Comments:

This contract needs to be approved by the 15th day of classes.

Professor F. approved on 02-04-2016

Optional Comments:

No Comment Entered

Department Head B. approved on 02-05-2016

Department Head Comments:

No Comment Entered

CONTRACT DETAILS:

1. Describe the Honors component of the course, discussing the nature of the project, how this project constitutes "Honors," and the nature of the "consolidating experience". Be as specific as possible in describing what you will do, including references to specific readings and/or methodologies where appropriate, lengths of required papers or reports, number and nature of presentations, etc. Research papers are typically 8-10 double spaced pages but certain other projects may include a shorter report.

In addition to all lecture exams and laboratory exercises, C will keep a record of all organisms I bring to class this semester and complete an organism-of-the-day page for each one in a field notebook. He will also record 15 species encounters of his own during the semester and provide taxonomic and biological information for each one in his notebook. He will write a research paper 8-10 pages long on an obscure taxon or a more in more depth report on a taxon covered in class (to be approved by the teacher). Lastly, he will go on at least one field trip of this semester's BIOL1037 class.

2. How does the Honors component differ from normal course expectations (a copy of the syllabus may be provided to illustrate)? Address if the Honors component will be factored into the final grade in the course and, if so, what the grading expectations will be.

Honors components include independent research and field activities. C will be able to interact with me and with other honors students in a way not possible in the conventional course. He will take an in-depth view of particular organisms through his report and field notebook that goes beyond the more superficial survey of organisms typically accomplished in BIOL1030. The report and notebook will be averaged with test scores for the final course grade.

HONORS COLLEGE - COURSE CONTRACT

Student Name: A

Student Banner ID: XXXXXXXXX

Course: PHYS5500 - 001 - Fundamentals Of Physics - Credit Hours 3

Term: Spring 2016

Professor: E.

Initiated By: Suzanne P. Hunter on 01-27-2016

Comments:

This contract needs be approved by the 15th day of classes.

Professor E. approved on 02-03-2016

Optional Comments:

No Comment Entered

Department Head H. approved on 02-03-2016

Department Head Comments:

I approve

CONTRACT DETAILS:

1. Describe the Honors component of the course, discussing the nature of the project, how this project constitutes "Honors," and the nature of the "consolidating experience". Be as specific as possible in describing what you will do, including references to specific readings and/or methodologies where appropriate, lengths of required papers or reports, number and nature of presentations, etc. Research papers are typically 8-10 double spaced pages but certain other projects may include a shorter report.

A will research an advanced topic related to but not covered in PHYS 5500 (Introduction to Optics) for honors credit. Specifically A would like to investigate the Faraday effect in which the polarization plane of emission is rotated when traversing a medium within a magnetic field.

The final product will be a paper approximately 10 to 15 pages in length including figures, equations, references with a description of the Faraday effect, and applications. It is expected that A will begin by reading the relevant sections in the course textbook but will also identify and make use of other sources (papers, books, etc). A will also attempt to demonstrate the Faraday effect in the laboratory likely using a liquid medium. If successful, the laboratory procedure and results will be documented as part of the final paper.

An outline of the paper and a description of the laboratory activity will be due on 2/24/16 for comments. A draft of the paper will be due immediately after Spring Break 3/21/16. Feedback on the draft will be provided and substantial revisions of the paper along with a list of changes and additions made to the paper since the draft should be included as an appendix to the final paper. The final paper will be due on the last day of class 4/29/16.

2. How does the Honors component differ from normal course expectations (a copy of the syllabus may be provided to illustrate)? Address if the Honors component will be factored into the final grade in the course and, if so, what the grading expectations will be.

The paper will count as 10% of A's overall course grade and the remaining components of the class (exams and homework) will be scaled by 90% to accommodate this project. The project will be graded on completeness of the description and demonstration of the chosen research topic and the quality of the revisions made to the original draft of the paper.