

Make-up / extra credit assignment for Dr. Corbin's Courses

Vertebrate Histology
Ornithology
Ecology and Evolution

Embryology
Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy
Other course

Assignment:

The Assignment is to do a literature review on a topic of students choice (or one that is suggested by Dr. Corbin) that corresponds to the course content (Vertebrate Histology, Ornithology etc...). This assignment is available to students under special circumstances. It is not open to everyone and should be discussed with Dr. Corbin well in advance of proceeding. Unsolicited literature reviews will not be accepted for credit for any course under any circumstance.

Goals of the assignment:

1. Introduce to the reader why this topic is/was interesting to you.
2. What are the *historical* aspects of the topic? In other words, how long has this scientific issue/problem been around?
3. What are the seminal articles introducing the topic to the scientific community?
4. What is the current literature stating about the topic?
5. What is the future of research in this area? What questions still need to be answered?

General Format:

- See a recent copy of an Oikos "mini-review" for a guideline. Here's a link to one: http://facstaff.bloomu.edu/ccorbin/ornithology/example_minireview.pdf
- You may use any word or text processing program.
- Length: Undergraduate – 10 succinct pages, Graduate – 20 succinct pages. The literature cited section and title page are not included in the page count.
- Double spaced lines; no extra spaces between paragraphs.
- Headers or sectional titles are encouraged for organizational purposes.
- 12pt font.
- 25mm margins.
- Paper must be turned in to me in an electronic format (any format disc or an email will be fine).

Other:

The topic: Any approved topic will be fine. Use one that is interesting to you and not just the first topic you come across. This will help you to put things in your own words while cranking out 10 pages on the subject.

Citations: No (zero) internet web pages are allowed as citations and if used will be detrimental to the grade. Of course, primary literature articles may be downloaded from the internet.
Undergraduates – at least 12 citations, 9 of which must be from the primary literature
Graduates – at least 25 citations, 20 of which must be from the primary literature

Plagiarism: No plagiarism. Write in your own words but cite other's ideas in text (e.g. Brandywine, 2006), and make sure there is a matching citation in the literature cited section and visa versa.

Do not turn in a first draft. Read the paragraphs out-loud or to someone else and make sure the writing makes sense. I will be happy to make suggestions on a draft of the paper.