

Plant Biology/Zoology 849, Evolutionary Biology
Spring 2015 Schedule

10:20 - 11:40 TTh in A148 Plant and Soil Sciences

Instructors: Jeff Conner (connerj@msu.edu), Doug Schemske (schem@msu.edu)

Jan 13	Conner	Introduction
Jan 15 – Feb 19	Conner	Basic Population and Quantitative Genetics
Feb 24 – Feb 26	Conner	Molecular Evolution
Mar 3 – Mar 5	Conner	Comparative Methods
Mar 9 – 13	Spring break	
Mar 17 – 19	Conner	Evo-devo
Mar 24 – Apr 23	Schemske	Speciation and Adaptation
Apr 28 –30	Gallant	Genome Evolution

Text: Conner, J. K. and D. L Hartl 2004. *A Primer of Ecological Genetics*. Sinauer Associates, Sunderland, MA (Available at the MSU bookstore, www.sinauer.com, or Amazon.com)

Grading:

65% Conner assignments

35% Schemske assignments

Details on assignments will be given at the beginning of each instructor's section; typically there is a short assignment on the readings due most Thursdays in Jeff's portion of the course, and three assignments, including a grant proposal, in Doug's portion.

Learning objectives:

The learning objectives of this class are to introduce students to many of the fundamental concepts in evolutionary biology, enable students to critically evaluate the primary literature, and improve students' ability to think like a scientist, that is, to make judgments based on evidence.