

**EEB 2245W**  
**For students of Prof. Peter Turchin**  
**Spring 2009**

**I. Contact Information**

Prof. Peter Turchin  
Torrey Life Science Building 462; Telephone 486-3603  
E-mail: peter.turchin@uconn.edu  
Office Hours: By appointment

Papers should be e-mailed to me as Word document files by 5 P.M. on the due date. (In exceptional circumstances, I will accept a printed copy, which should be placed in my mailbox in the EEB department office, TLS 316, by 4 P.M.).

Please note that during this semester I plan to attend two conferences out of town, so don't assume that you can meet with me on short notice. Check my availability by e-mail ahead of time.

**II. Course goals:** The goals of this course are to help you learn to present information, ideas, and arguments in clear, well-organized prose and to introduce you to library research in biology, including reading of the primary literature in which scientists report the results of their studies. Your assignment is to write and rewrite a term paper on an evolutionary topic of your choice (subject to my approval and input).

**III. Summary of Due Dates**

Assignment	Percent of W grade	Due Date	Return Date	Description
Term paper topic	Not graded	Jan. 30	Feb. 3	A brief description of your term paper topic with a list of at least 3 references you plan to use, including one from this year (2008). The references should be listed in the proper format for a "References Cited" section (see below).
Term paper assignment #1	10%	Feb. 6	Feb. 10	This assignment includes: (1) title, (2) outline, (3) draft of the first paragraph of the introduction, and (4) list of references
Term paper assignment #2	15%	Feb. 27	Mar. 9	A draft of a portion of the term paper, ca. 1500 words (ca. 5 pages) in length. This draft should incorporate feedback received on the first assignment.

Term paper assignment #3	25%	Apr. 3	Apr. 10	Turn in a complete draft of your term paper in the required format. This should reflect a serious effort on your part to produce an already polished paper that you have edited (repeatedly) and proofread carefully. The previously submitted portion should be revised in response to instructor feedback.
Term paper assignment #4	50%	May 1		Revision based on comments received on draft.

**For details of the assignments follow the guidelines on EEB 2245W Main W Web Page:**

<http://hydrodictyon.eeb.uconn.edu/eebedia/index.php/EEB2245W-S2009>

**READ IT CAREFULLY!**

#### **IV. OUTLINE OF THE PAPER: AN EXAMPLE**

*Title:* The Evolution of Sociality by Multilevel Selection

*Outline:*

I. Introduction

II. How did sociality evolve?

A. Previous views

i. Reciprocal altruism

ii. Kin selection

iii. Group selection

B. Inadequacy of reciprocal altruism and kin selection theories for explaining sociality

C. The mechanism of multilevel selection provides a better explanation

i. Mathematical models

ii. Empirical evidence

III. Conclusions

Literature Cited