BIOL 8201: Seminar in Molecular Evolution

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Meeting time: To be decided based on enrolled student’s availability  
Class room: To be decided based on the class size  
Office hours: By appointment

Course Description
Overview Molecular evolution draws on evolutionary biology and population genetics to understand change in genetic variation over time. Each week in this seminar, we will critically discuss recent molecular evolution papers with respect to: research questions, methodologies employed, results generated, limitations, and interpretation of findings within the broader context of the molecular evolution literature.

Course Learning Objectives
1. Understand key concepts in molecular evolution  
2. Critically evaluate scientific literature  
3. Present scientific findings

Grading
Research Presentations (50%)  
Classroom Participation (50%)  
Reading Materials: peer-reviewed scientific articles

Classroom attendance
This will be a highly interactive classroom, where students will learn concepts through discussion and presentation. Therefore, attendance is required, and students are strongly advised to avoid scheduling conflicting events with the class time. Exceptions will be made in only rare cases (e.g., severe medical or family emergencies), and the penalty for missing a class period is 50 points unless the absence is preapproved in writing.

Civility & Temple’s Code of Conduct (CoC): Violations of the CoC include, but are not limited to: academic dishonesty and impropriety, including plagiarism and academic cheating; interfering or attempting to interfere with or disrupting the conduct of classes or any other normal or regular activities of the University (see: http://policies.temple.edu/getdoc.asp?policy_no=03.70.12).

Disability Disclosure: Any student who has need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss the specific situation as soon as possible. In addition, Disability Resources should be contacted at 215-204-1280.

Student/Faculty Academic Rights and Responsibilities: The University’s policy can be accessed through the following link: http://policies.temple.edu/getdoc.asp?policy_no=03.70.02