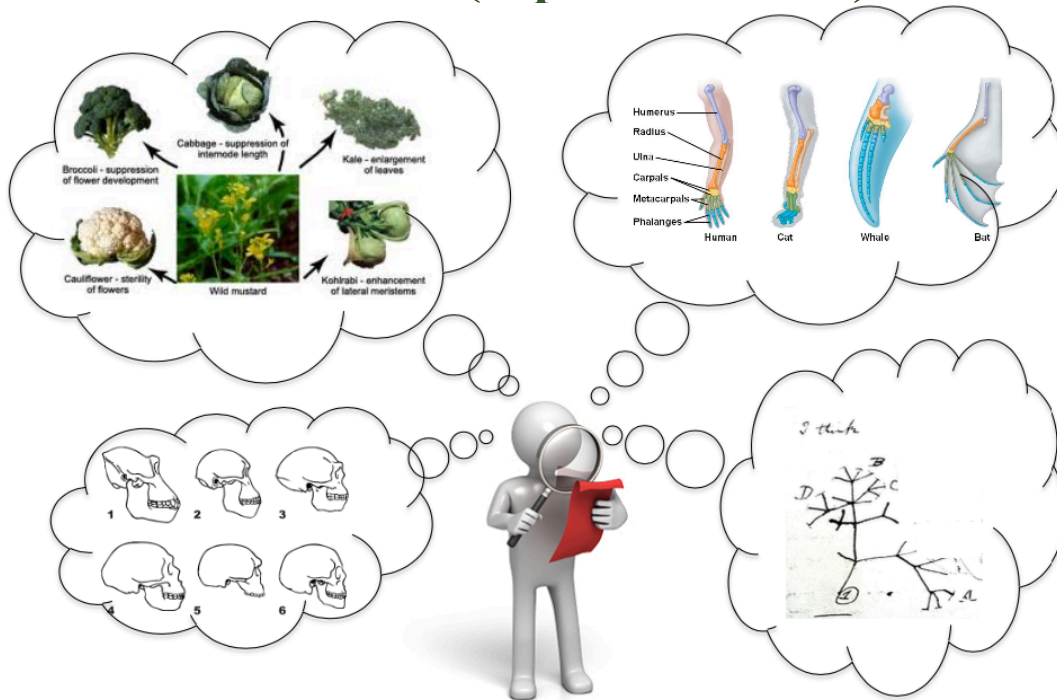


Evolution – Online Course

BIOL 0230 001

Fall 2020 (Sept 2. – Dec. 22)



Course Description: Evolution is the conceptual foundation that supports discovery and scientific inquiry. This course will highlight many of the fundamental principles of evolution and set the foundation for future courses on more specific investigation. My goal as instructor is to establish a learning environment that is both informative and intellectually stimulating. The course is broken into four broad modules: Evolutionary Patterns and Mechanisms, Adaptation and Evolutionary Outcomes, Tree Thinking, and The History of Life. We will address topics using a combination of case studies, paper discussions, group-based learning, and reflections.

Course Delivery: Given the ongoing Covid-19 situation this course will be held online and delivered as one asynchronous “lecture” and one synchronous recitation during class time (either Tues or Thurs from 9:45-11am) per week. Accommodations will be made if you are unable to meet during these times. In the synchronous environment we will meet to do recitations and paper discussions in Blackboard Collaborate.

Required reading: All readings will be provided in class and uploaded on Plato.

Course learning objectives:

At the conclusion of this course you should be able to:

1. explain the fundamental elements of natural selection and supporting data for evolution (fossil records, molecular, morphological, etc).
2. fully understand the importance of evolution and its foundation in all other scientific disciplines.
3. develop a deeper appreciation for the diversity of life.
4. critically evaluate scientific literature.
5. summarize techniques for classifying organisms and building phylogenies.

Instructor: Dr. Jess Stephens, jstephens@westfield.ma.edu