

## EEB 2208 (Introduction to Conservation Biology)

### Homework Overview

#### Background information

The goal of these homework assignments is to help you to learn the material and to prepare you to use it in exams (and beyond). Educational research shows that frequent testing is a good way to help people remember information and my goal in these assignments is to help you learn, rather than to assess your knowledge (I'll do the latter in exams and the poster project, so getting points on those will be harder). Here, you will be graded simply on whether you complete each assignment, not on how many questions you get right. Each assignment is worth 1% of the final class grade and you are required to complete any 10 of the 13 assignments. I encourage you to do all assignments though, because that should help you do better on other graded activities.

To get points you **MUST** turn your answers in on time and answer all questions. There are no exceptions unless you have a medical or family emergency that requires you to be out of class for a significant portion of the semester, in which case you should talk to me as soon as possible. Everyone gets three free passes to accommodate times when you are sick, when your computer eats your homework 2 minutes before it is due, or when life otherwise interferes. My advice is to not waste these passes.

Homework will be posted online on HuskyCT at noon on Wednesdays. You should complete the assessment **before 8 pm on the following Sunday. Answers that are time-stamped after 8:00 pm will be considered late and will not receive any points.** We will review submissions to ensure that all questions are answered, but we will not grade responses. Answers will be posted on HuskyCT the day after the submission date so that you can check your answers yourself.

Most assignments will involve questions similar to those that will be found on the exams. A few will require you to do things that the educational research literature suggests helps people to learn. Most questions will be based on the material presented during the previous week, but I will also include a couple of questions each time that are based on earlier material. The reason for making the assignments partly cumulative is to encourage you to look back at previous weeks' notes, which will help you to build knowledge over the course of the semester.

Before you start the first assignment, make sure you read (and understand) the document titled "Exam Format Information", which will be posted on the web site under "Important course documents". That document explains how to answer questions on my exams. Because I do not use a standard multiple choice format, the homework assignments will also provide you with practice answering the type of exam questions that I write.

Finally, at this point, you are perhaps thinking that you could just submit any old rubbish each week because you will still get the points. Or that you could copy your friends' answers and I will be none the wiser. In both cases you would be correct – as long as you follow the instructions carefully, these are essentially free points. But if you do not take the homework seriously, you will probably not enjoy the exams.

### **Instructions for completing homework assignments:**

All homework assignments are posted on HuskyCT in the folder labeled “Homework assignments” and will become available at noon on the date that the homework is assigned. Answers will be posted in the “Homework answers” folder the morning after each assignment is due. There are no answers for assignments 4, 7, 10, 12, and 13, so do not be surprised when you cannot find them.

To submit a homework assignment:

- Log into HuskyCT.
- Go to “Assignments” in the left sidebar.
- Click on “Homework 1” (or the proper number for that week).
- Most weeks, under “Assignment Submission”, click the “Write Submission” box.
- In the text box that appears, either write or copy and paste your homework answers, formatted as described in the instructions at the start of the homework.
- You can save your answers as a draft at any point during the process, and come back to them later.
- For a few assignments, you will be asked to submit a “mind map” (details on what these are and how to create them will be given). You will need to create these as a separate document (either a .jpg or .pdf file) and submit that document as an attachment. To do this, click on the “Browse my computer” box and then follow the path to the correct file.
- When you have completed your homework, press the “Submit” button.
- **IMPORTANT:** Submit your responses before 8:00 pm on the day they are due or you will get no points.