

GENERAL INFORMATION

Instructor: Brian Traw
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Phone: 254-4279; Email: mbt5
Office hours: By appointment, as well as after lecture/section

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF TRACK 2

Lecture: The concepts presented in lecture, along with the readings in the course textbook, will provide the foundation for our discussions and writing. It is therefore essential that everyone goes to lecture and reads the textbook.

Section: These classes will consist of activities and discussions.

Activities: Some sections will be devoted to in-class projects where you will work in groups to explore topics. Other sections will be field trips, for example to visit Comell's excellent insect or plant collections. Both types of activities will require the completion of worksheets.

Student-led discussions: A subset of sections will be student-led discussions. Your contribution to discussions both as a participant and a leader will be evaluated. The success of these class discussions depends upon you! Come to these discussions having thoroughly read and thought about the assigned readings.

Writing assignments: There will be four papers of varying length this semester, as well as some shorter, more informal, pieces. At least one of the papers will have an optional rewrite. Through writing, critiquing and rewriting we will work on improving our writing abilities. Writing assignments are due at the beginning of section. Be punctual. Late assignments will receive a penalty unless you speak to me at least a day ahead of time. Realizing ahead of time that you will miss a deadline is an important skill to learn, if you haven't already.

Journal: Each person needs to obtain a notebook in which to keep a journal for the duration of the semester. I would like you to record your thoughts about the material you will be learning in the lectures, section discussions, and readings. Plan on making regular entries. Set yourself a time at least once per week for journal maintenance to make sure that everything gets said. Journals will be confidential and collected for evaluation three times during the semester.

Group Project: There will be a formal group project midway through the semester culminating in a presentation at the 1st Annual WIM-Evolution Meetings held in April.

Concept Tests: Twice during the semester, your understanding of the lecture material will be challenged through these short answer take-home assignments. They shouldn't take long to complete, but will allow you to gauge the depth of your understanding of the material.

Grading:

	Weight %
Assignment	
Participation	10
Four papers (8,8,12,12)	40
Worksheets	15
Journal	10
Group Project	10
Concept Tests	15