

Bio. Sci. 378, Spring 1994
Evolutionary Biology
Track 2: T.A. Pat Doak

Paper #1

Due: 16 Feb 94. Please bring 1 copies of your paper to lecture. Put your name on only one of these copies.

Format: 1-2 pages type written, double or 1.5 spacing.

Assignment: In this first paper I would like you to take a position on an issue (see below) and defend it. There is no right or wrong position to take. What is important is that you make a sound and logical argument for your position and convey your understanding of the issue and the underlying controversy. If you find that you are having a hard time supporting the position you have chosen, you may want to stop and rethink that position.

Issue: There are two competing schools of systematics: phenetics and cladistics. Which method of systematic analysis do you think provides the most utility in classifying organisms and identifying relationships between them. Why do you favor this method? What does your method of choice have to offer that the other does not? What, if any, disadvantages does it have? How might your results differ if the alternative analysis was used, and how would these differences alter the utility of the analysis.

You may find it helpful to use real groups of organisms as examples. However, you may write the paper more generally if that works well for you. Please, if you do use examples, do not use the dinosaur/reptile/bird example (it has been discussed enough **already**).