

Entomology - Genetics 606
Quantitative Phylogenetics
Spring 2008

Final Project Requirements

We require that each student design and complete an independent research project. The written report on this project will be your final paper.

The final paper is due in electronic copy no later than Wed April 30. All deadlines are at 5 pm of the due date. Assignments not turned in by the deadline will receive a zero.

Deadlines:

Mon Feb 4: A one-page proposal for your final paper project is due in class. This should include brief description of topic, the data and methodologies to be used (5% of course grade)

Mon Feb 22: electronic copy of aligned data for final project is due preferably in nexus format (5% of course grade)

Fri Mar 28: First draft of final paper (10% of course grade)

Fri Apr 4: Written reviews of peers' papers to instructors (10% of course grade)

Wed May 7: Final paper due in class (20% of course grade)

Objectives of the Final Project:

1. obtain expertise on the topics covered in the course
2. practice the preparation of manuscripts for peer-reviewed publication
3. practice peer-review of colleague manuscripts

Topic Selection: The project should address an interesting or controversial question in your field. You may use published data or original data. We expect that you will employ a comprehensive and contemporary set of analytical methods appropriate to your data, and we expect critical discussion and interpretation of your results. You should plan to meet with one (or both) of us prior to submitting your proposal to discuss the idea for your project.

Format: The final paper (and the first draft) should be in the form of a journal article with the standard sections: Abstract, Introduction, Materials & Methods, Results, Discussion, and Literature Cited. In the introduction you should provide sufficient background for your project that we can understand both the antecedents in the literature and its significance, and you should pose the major questions that will be addressed in the paper. Return to these questions in the Discussion section, and tell us how your results have helped to answer them. Literature citations should follow the format of any peer-reviewed journal of your choice

Length: The paper should be no longer than 15-pages, at 12pt font, double-spaced type, including figures and tables, but not including Literature Cited. . In a separate letter (not counted against the 15-pages), each student must explain how the reviewer's comments were addressed.

Review of peers's papers: Each student is expected to review the final paper drafts of three other students. We will give more specific guidelines later, but the expectation will be similar to what a real journal reviewer would provide.