

Augusto Santos Rampasso – Summary of Student Evaluations

Course title: Model-Based Phylogenetics and Hypothesis Testing

Course number/Level: ENTOM4610

Academic year: 2019-2020

Semester: Spring 2020

Enrollment: 21 students (upper-level undergraduate and graduate students)

Instructor: Dr. Corrie Moreau

Graduate TA: Augusto Santos Rampasso

Course description: This course is an introduction to the “tree of life” (phylogeny): its conceptual origins, methods for discovering its structure, how phylogenies are used in macroevolution, and its importance in evolutionary biology and other areas of science. Topics include historical context and concepts, sources of data, methods of phylogenetic analysis, and the use of phylogenies to study systematics and classification, the tempo and mode of lineage diversification, coevolution, biogeography, conservation, molecular biology, development, and epidemiology.

Responsibilities: I was responsible for introducing and running one lab section per week. The lab sections were 2:25 hours-long and largely computer-based. As preparation for the labs, I updated tutorials written in 2013 and prepared a new computer exercise. My biggest challenge was to make them as easy to use and understand as possible. Outside of the lab sections, I graded exams and was available to help students, especially with their final projects.

Student evaluations – quantitative (1 = completely disagree, 5 = completely agree):

Seems knowledgeable in the subject matter:	4.56 ± 0.73
Is well prepared for class:	4.50 ± 0.85
Uses class time efficiently:	4.56 ± 0.73
Stimulates deeper thinking about the subject:	4.33 ± 0.87
Makes me feel free to ask questions:	4.80 ± 0.63
Provides clear and comprehensive explanations:	4.40 ± 0.70
Communicates interest in helping students learn:	4.78 ± 0.67
Is willing to help students outside of class:	4.70 ± 0.67
Conveys enthusiasm in teaching the material:	4.60 ± 0.70
Involves everyone in class:	4.40 ± 0.84
Is organized in presenting the material:	4.80 ± 0.42
Grades equitably:	4.78 ± 0.67
Comments on my work in ways that help me learn:	4.67 ± 0.71
Realizes when students do not understand:	4.20 ± 0.79
Overall the quality of my TA’s teaching is:	4.50 ± 0.85

Student evaluations – comments sample:

“Augusto was so incredibly helpful with troubleshooting during the labs which were largely computer based. During these labs we often ran into a myriad of technological issues and Augusto was very helpful in making sure the class still went as smoothly as possible. Thanks for a great semester, Augusto!”

“Augusto and Corrie were super helpful in the labs helping everyone troubleshoot all the problems with the phylogenetics software. Things were much more difficult in the 2 remote labs [due to the COVID pandemic and the switch to remote teaching in the middle of the semester], but again both did their best to make sure everyone could use the software and knew how to run the analyses. I appreciate all the flexibility afforded to students in this class!”