BIOL 830P Special Topics: Domestication of Dogs  
Summer 2019

Instructor Information:
Dr. Dawn Simon  
email: simondm@unk.edu  
Phone: (308) 865-8470  
Office: Bruner Hall of Sciences, Room 201C  
Hours: MWF 10:00-11:00 a.m. (CST) and other times by appointment.

During the week, I check email messages at least twice a day (once in the morning and once in late afternoon) and will usually respond within 24 (weekday) hours. (For example, if you email me on a Friday afternoon, I will typically respond by Monday afternoon.) In special circumstances, responses may be delayed up to 72 hours. I do not have voice mail on my office phone, so it is best to leave messages for me via email.

Course Description:
This course is a readings course exploring the topic of domestication of dogs from an evolutionary standpoint. We will emphasize the genetic and phenotypic changes that have occurred during domestication and the influence of humans on this process.

Course Objectives:
1. Students will recognize common evolutionary principles as they apply to the topic of origin and domestication of dogs.
2. Students will recognize common patterns of domestication across species.
3. Students will develop critical thinking skills by evaluating evidence and suggesting alternate approaches.
4. Students will demonstrate the ability to form a coherent evidence-based argument and communicate this in writing.
5. Students will be able to locate and appropriately use examples from the primary literature.

Required Text:
How to Tame a Fox (and Build a Dog) (2017), L.A. Dugatkin and L. Trut, The University of Chicago Press.

Computer Requirements:
You are required to have frequent access to a computer with internet connectivity. Lectures will require internet access for viewing and I expect you to check the Blackboard site several times per week (and preferably every day). Please refer to the eCampus website to make sure you meet the minimum hardware/software and internet connection speed required by all UNK eCampus students (http://www.unk.edu/academics/ecampus/resources-info/students/technology/requirements.php). The written portion of exams must be completed using Microsoft Office.

Mode of Instruction:
This course is entirely online and will primarily consist of readings, discussions and a short paper.

Grades:
The course grade is based on discussion board posts (140 points), interactions (70 points) and assignments culminating in a short paper (100 pts). Letter grades, using the plus/minus system, will be assigned using the standard grading scale for the Dept. of Biology, as follows: A (93-100%), A- (90-92%), B+ (88-89%), B (83-87%), B- (80-82%), C+ (78-79%), C (73-77%), C- (70-72%), D+ (68-69%), D (63-67%), D- (60-62%), and F (below 60%). Your final grade will be rounded up (so, if you finish with an 82.5% your grade will be a B).
Assignments:
Most weeks you will need to complete a reading assignment and answer multiple discussion questions. There will also be three additional assignments, which will culminate in a short paper (5 pages). Weekly announcements will be made that include the specific reading assignments and reminders of any assignment deadlines. See schedule on the last page for deadlines. Except under extraordinary circumstances, late posts will not be accepted.

Discussions
For discussion board assignments, I will post multiple questions/topics per week. You will be required to respond to at least two of these original questions (10 pts per post). To earn full points per post, the post must include evidence to support your point using appropriate references. Your initial post should be at least one paragraph in length (5-10 sentences). A rubric will be provided. You will also receive an interaction score (10 pts) for each reading assignment, which will be earned by posting additional questions and/or responding to the posts of classmates.

Paper Assignments
There will be three additional assignments which will culminate in a short paper. The first assignment will consist of a brief explanation of three potential paper topics and at least one appropriate reference related to the subject of domestication of dogs. The second assignment will be a detailed outline on one of the approved topics and the third assignment will be an appropriately referenced paper based on this outline. More details will be provided at the time of assignment.

Academic Integrity:
Plagiarism will not be tolerated. You must cite all sources and rephrase content in your own words. You assume full responsibility for the content and integrity of the work you submit. All exams (and some discussion board posts) will be scanned through Safe Assignment via Blackboard. Students who plagiarize any part of their assignments or exams will at minimum receive a zero on that assignment and could potentially fail this course.

Appropriate References:
For the purposes of this course, an appropriate reference is defined as a peer-reviewed journal article or book chapter, assigned reading material (including your text) and lecture material. Note that in most cases, lecture material will be derived from a clearly cited peer-reviewed publication or your text; in these cases the original source should be cited. Please see Blackboard for the proper format (Start Here → Course Policies and Additional Materials → Supplemental Materials → Guidelines for References).

Students with Disabilities or Those Who are Pregnant:
Students with disabilities or those who are pregnant are encouraged to contact me for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska at Kearney to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to students with documented disabilities or those who are pregnant. To receive accommodation services for a disability, students must be registered with UNK Disabilities Services Coordinator, David Brandt, in the Academic Success Office, 163 Memorial Student Affairs Building, 308-865-8214 or by email brandtdl@unk.edu. For those needing accommodation due to pregnancy, you need to visit with Student Health. The following link provides information for students and faculty regarding pregnancy rights. http://www.nwlc.org/resource/pregnant-and-parenting-students-rights-faqs-college-and-graduate-students The link to the above statement is as follows: http://unkcms.unk.edu/offices/disability_services/

Reporting Student Sexual Harassment, Sexual Violence or Sexual Assault:
Reporting allegations of rape, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and stalking enables the University to promptly provide support to the impacted student(s), and to
take appropriate action to prevent a recurrence of such sexual misconduct and protect the campus community. Confidentiality will be respected to the greatest degree possible. Any student who believes she or he may be the victim of sexual misconduct is encouraged to report to one or more of the following resources: Local Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault Advocacy Agency 308-237-2599; Campus Police (or Security) 308-627-4811; Title IX Coordinator 308-865-8655. Retaliation against the student making the report, whether by students or University employees, will not be tolerated.

Veterans Services:
UNK works diligently to support UNK’s military community by providing military and veteran students and families with resources and services to help them succeed. Veterans Services assists with the GI Bill process and acts as a liaison between the student and the Veterans Administration. If you need assistance or would like more information, please contact Lori Weed Skarka at 308-865-8520 or unkveterans@unk.edu.

Course schedule:

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<td>Prologue, Ch 1-2</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>May 13</td>
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