

## **Evolution – Individual discussion papers**

The purpose of the paper is to encourage you to think a little more deeply about the issues discussed in class. The topic of the papers is supposed to be along the following lines: (1) a discussion of the specific readings for the given tutorial, and (2) a discussion of the TOPIC(S) addressed at a given tutorial, using the specific readings as a focus or a starting point. The former will probably give you a passing grade. The closer your paper is to the latter, the better that grade will be (and the more work it will require, of course).

The paper is to be written in English (do I need to elaborate?) and typed. Length is not an issue, but I suppose that somewhere between 1000 to 2000 words would be suitable. If, however, you are able to say all you want to say in 500 words, by all means, do so. On the other hand, if you need 3000 words to express yourself, that is fine too, as long as you do so concisely. Scientific writing and speech are laden with verbosity and loquacity (see how easy it is!). As Calvin says, sarcastically, of course, “the purpose of (scientific) writing is to inflate weak ideas, obscure reasoning and inhibit clarity. With a little practice it can become an intimidating and impenetrable fog”. Make every word count! Be direct and concise; do not be tempted by grandiloquence (I am doing it again!!).

If you opt to go for gold, you may find it helpful to check other sources to properly address your topic. If you do so, please reference these properly, using the “Evolution” format (the journal, that is). If despite your resourcefulness and the vast support of our libraries you still have problems with VERY specific items, see the TA and me (in that order).

Please be aware that although several people will be writing on the same topic on any given week, these papers are supposed to be INDIVIDUAL. It would be preferable if the grader does not find evidence of too much cooperation.

A few words about format: make it double spaced with 12 point font, number all pages sequentially, on the top right.

Papers are due 2 weeks after the respective tutorial.