

ENEC/Biol 669:
Extinction: Causes, Consequences and Fixes (or Do-overs)
Course Information & Policies
Spring 2019

Meeting time and location: TBA

Instructor: Karin Pfennig
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843-5590
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Office hours: by appointment

Course requirements: The course is designed for graduate students and postdocs; they should have appropriate advanced coursework as background.

Credit hours & meeting requirements: This is a 1 credit hour class; we will meet weekly 1 hour per week.

Course goals: By the end of the semester, students will be able to articulate recent findings and advances related to the process of extinction.

Readings

Readings will be selected by students and sent out to members of the class.

The papers for a given week MUST be uploaded to the Sakai site NO LATER THAN 1 week prior to the meeting in which the paper is discussed.

Class format and evaluation

The class will consist of student-led discussions of the primary literature. The class will culminate in a final exam, which will consist of a class discussion of the semester as a whole and an analysis of what patterns emerged over the readings throughout the semester.

Students' final grades will be evaluated on the basis of the following:

- 1) Attendance and participation in ALL class activities and completion of assignments: **60% of grade**
- 2) Synopses/Discussion Leader: **30% of grade**
- 3) Final: **10%**

Assignments

Student-led discussions

For leaders: Throughout the semester, a student will select 1 recently published paper (published within last 2-3 years).

For participants: If you are not a leader in a given week, you must read the papers beforehand, and generate at least one question/comment/discussion point per paper. You must ask these questions AT the discussion. *Participants may be called upon at random.*

Technology

Leaders will not use powerpoint to lead the discussion; we will use journal club format to discuss the papers.

Schedule

January: What are causes of extinction? What groups are at risk?

February: What are the consequences of extinction?

March: What, if anything, can be done to prevent extinction? What are the problems with preventive techniques (e.g., hybridization)?

April: Can species be brought back after extinction occurs?

Final Exam: TBA

Note: Unforeseen circumstances can arise at any time during the semester, which may require a change to the class schedule or policies herein. In such circumstances, the instructors reserve the right to make any necessary changes and will notify the students of such changes as soon as possible.