Biology 1409 Diversity of Life

Extra Credit Opportunities

You can earn up to a maximum of 25 extra points by doing any of the activities listed below. Most will be worth a couple of points each, some of the more involved ones may be able to get you up to 5 extra points. Any extra points that you earn will be added to your final point total for the class.

Self Guided Field Trips
One field trip will count as part of your lab grade. You may, however, choose to participated in additional fieldtrips for extra credit. Some suggested field trip localities are listed in the Lab Packet. If you have other ideas come and talk to me about them.

Scavenger Hunt:
You will be asked to find, collect, and identify some of a variety of organisms as we progress through our survey of the major kingdoms of life. There is a wide variety of items to choose from, they are described on the course website. you can collect additional scavenger hunt items for each kingdom for 1 point each extra credit.

Seminars
Local colleges, universities, and nature centers frequently offer seminars and workshops throughout the semester. You can get extra credit by attending or participating in them and writing up a summary to submit along with a flier, ticket or other “proof of attendance” for the event. Check the bulletin board for postings.

Website Surveys
Visit 5 websites, print its homepage and write an evaluations of each site; what its got, what is useful, what is not useful for this class. You may even want to devise your own rating system for your evaluations. Be sure to provide the website address and title for each of your evaluations; each evaluation should be one side of a page long.

Misleading Common Names
Taxonomy involves the description, naming and classification of all living organisms into the hierarchy of classification begun by Linnaeus. The common names of many organisms are confusing in terms of how they are classified by biologists.

Select 6 of the organisms listed below. Use handouts, webnotes, textbook, lab packet and web searches to explain why the common names of each of the organisms is inaccurate according to the classification scheme you are learning in class. Include the information below with your explanation:

1. Indicated the kingdom and phylum to which it might belong based solely on its common name
2. Identify the Kingdom and the Phylum to which each of the organisms actually belongs based on the actual scientific study of each organism

Select 6 (3 points ec):
- blue green algae
- reindeer moss
- pigtoe
- fish lice
- water bear
- horseshoe crab
- worm
- snake
- ball moss
- air plant
- turkey tail
- gray oyster
- saragosa palm

Expose Lies
Any time you hear me make some broad generalization in class (eg. “All animals have this trait” or “No bacteria can do this”) or some other statement that you think isn’t true, or you read in your textbook something that sounds suspicious, find evidence that the statement was incorrect. Provide your reference (a book or website) and exactly what I said and why it is incorrect. Each instance will get you one point. The more times you can prove that your instructor is an uninformed moron the more points you get for scientifically validating that hypothesis!
Additional opportunities for extra will be announced throughout the semester, check the bulletin board regularly for details