

BL4286 Advanced Topics in Evolution

(BL4286 online module handbook version 43)

Credits: 15

Semester: 2

Module Organiser

Prof Mike Ritchie

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Pre-requisite Modules:

Anti-requisite Modules:

Post-requisite Modules:

Additional Module

Information:

[Please check MMS regularly for additional module information](#)

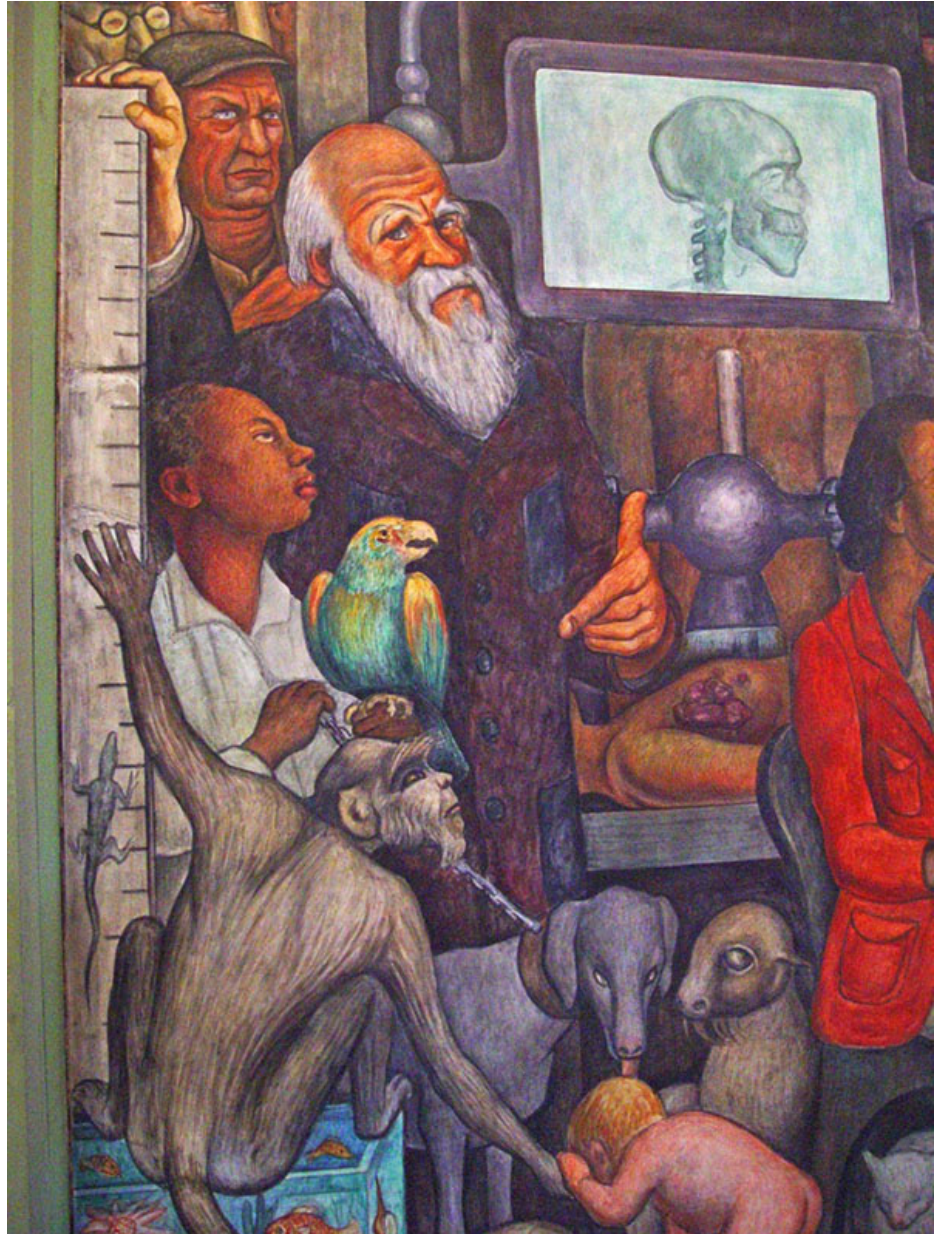


image: Detail from Diego Riviera; Man, Controller of the Universe (Pallacia de Bellas Artes, Mexico City)

In this module, we will consider outstanding questions in modern Evolutionary Biology to develop a detailed understanding of research issues in this field. Both molecular and whole organismal approaches will be addressed. Topics will be based on classic papers in the literature raising theoretical questions about the origin of species, adaptation, genetic drift and natural and sexual selection. Each classic paper will be combined with a recently published study addressing one of these theoretical topics. We will use tutorials and student-led seminars to address the topics in detail. The result will be

an exciting opportunity to tackle classic topics in evolution and learn how the very latest research addresses these issues.

[BL4286View content for BL4286 \(2023/4\) in the Module Management System \(MMS\)](#)

[View the current Biology Online Module Catalogue for BL4286](#)

[BL4286View BL4286 \(2023/4\) in the University of St Andrews Module Catalogue](#)

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BL4286: Timetable

Legend (not all modules have every event type):

lecture	tutorial	workshop	practical	other
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Semester 2: Week 1

DATE & TIME	VENUE	STAFF	EVENT
Thursday 18-01-2024 11:00 to 13:00	Dyers Brae Dyers Brae Seminar Room	Prof Mike Ritchie Prof Nathan Bailey	Lecture L1: Introduction 2023-4_BL4286_L1

Semester 2: Week 2

DATE & TIME	VENUE	STAFF	EVENT
Thursday 25-01-2024 11:00 to 13:00	Dyers Brae Dyers Brae Seminar Room	Prof Mike Ritchie Prof Nathan Bailey	Lecture L2: Lecture 2023-4_BL4286_L2

Semester 2: Week 3

DATE & TIME	VENUE	STAFF	EVENT
Thursday 01-02-2024 11:00 to 13:00	Dyers Brae Dyers Brae Seminar Room	Prof Mike Ritchie Prof Nathan Bailey	Lecture L3: Lecture 2023-4_BL4286_L3

Semester 2: Week 4

DATE & TIME	VENUE	STAFF	EVENT
Friday 09-02-2024 11:00 to 13:00	Dyers Brae Dyers Brae Seminar Room	Prof Mike Ritchie Prof Nathan Bailey	Lecture L4: Lecture 2023-4_BL4286_L4

Semester 2: Week 5

DATE & TIME	VENUE	STAFF	EVENT
Thursday 15-02-2024 11:00 to 13:00	Dyers Brae Dyers Brae Seminar Room	Prof Mike Ritchie Prof Nathan Bailey	Lecture L5: Lecture 2023-4_BL4286_L5

Spring Break: 26-Feb-2024 to 01-Mar-2024

Semester 2: Week 7

DATE & TIME	VENUE	STAFF	EVENT
Thursday 07-03-2024 11:00 to 13:00	Dyers Brae Dyers Brae Seminar Room	Prof Mike Ritchie Prof Nathan Bailey	Lecture L6: Lecture 2023-4_BL4286_L6

Semester 2: Week 8

DATE & TIME	VENUE	STAFF	EVENT
Thursday 14-03-2024 11:00 to 13:00	Dyers Brae Dyers Brae Seminar Room	Prof Mike Ritchie Prof Nathan Bailey	Lecture L7: Lecture 2023-4_BL4286_L7

Semester 2: Week 9

DATE & TIME	VENUE	STAFF	EVENT
Thursday 21-03-2024 11:00 to 13:00	Dyers Brae Dyers Brae Seminar Room	Prof Mike Ritchie Prof Nathan Bailey	Lecture L8: Lecture 2023-4_BL4286_L8

Semester 2: Week 10

DATE & TIME	VENUE	STAFF	EVENT
Thursday 28-03-2024 11:00 to 13:00	Dyers Brae Dyers Brae Seminar Room	Prof Mike Ritchie Prof Nathan Bailey	Lecture L9: Lecture 2023-4_BL4286_L9

Semester 2: Week 11

DATE & TIME	VENUE	STAFF	EVENT
Thursday 04-04-2024 11:00 to 13:00	Dyers Brae Dyers Brae Seminar Room	Prof Mike Ritchie Prof Nathan Bailey	Lecture L10: Lecture <small>2023-4_BL4286_L10</small>

BL4286: Reading List

[BL4286Click for BL4286 reading list](#)

BL4286: Assessment

2-hour Written Examination = 50%, Coursework = 50%

[BL4286View coursework assessment details for BL4286 \(2023/4\) in MMS](#)

The following related information applies to all Biology modules:

School of Biology Marking Criteria:	See JH booklet info (st-andrews.ac.uk)
Late submission of continuous assessment work:	All late submissions of coursework that do not require electronic submission should be made via the Biology Teaching Office, Level 2, BMS Building, North Haugh.
Exam details:	See School of Biology UG Handbook JH booklet info (st-andrews.ac.uk) : All Biology exams will be conducted online for 2022-23.
Exam timetable:	See Timetables - Exams - University of St Andrews (st-andrews.ac.uk)
Expected attendance:	See JH booklet info (st-andrews.ac.uk) for detailed attendance requirements.
Good Academic Practice & Avoiding Academic Misconduct:	See JH booklet info (st-andrews.ac.uk)
University Student Handbook:	University Student Handbook
School and University regulations in the School and University Undergraduate Handbook relating to absence reporting, penalties and rules for late submission of work, extensions for coursework, return of coursework, S-coding, good academic practice and Academic Alerts.:	JH booklet info (st-andrews.ac.uk) University Student Handbook

Who to ask

(Information in this section applies to all Biology Modules)

Before contacting staff, students should check the content of the Biology Undergraduate Handbook, the module handbook and specific task instructions.

Questions about

General teaching matters
Rescheduled or cancelled events
Lecture or practical content
Completing assessed practical assignments
Completing assessments
Marking on continuous assessment
Marking on exams
Rearranging practical days
Absence and/or extensions
Difficulties with academic progress which impact more than one module:
Overall performance, progress or future directions:
Disability:
For advice and support on any issue e.g. academic, financial, international, personal or health matters, or if you are unsure of who to go to for help:

University assistance with urgent matters out of office hours:

Contact

Biology Teaching Office (bioteach@st-andrews.ac.uk)
Check your University email
The lecturer who presented the material
The lecturer who set the assignment
Module Organiser (Prof Mike Ritchie mgr@st-andrews.ac.uk)
The Demonstrator or Module Organiser (Prof Mike Ritchie mgr@st-andrews.ac.uk)
Module Organiser (Prof Mike Ritchie mgr@st-andrews.ac.uk)
Module Organiser (Prof Mike Ritchie mgr@st-andrews.ac.uk)
Module Organiser (Prof Mike Ritchie mgr@st-andrews.ac.uk)
and the Biology Teaching Office (bioteach@st-andrews.ac.uk)
Year Coordinator
See School of Biology UG Handbook for list:
[JH booklet info \(st-andrews.ac.uk\)](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/jh-booklet-info)
Advisor of Studies
Disability Coordinator (biodisabilities@st-andrews.ac.uk)
Advice & Support Centre
Address: 79 North Street, St Andrews
Email: theasc@st-andrews.ac.uk
Web: <https://www.standrews.ac.uk/ask-a-question/>
Tel: 01334 462020
Tel: 01334 476161
Web:
<https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/students/advice/counselling/incrisis/>

Biology Teaching Office:

We are happy to hear from you about teaching matters. The School of Biology Teaching Office is open Monday to Friday 09.00 - 13.00 and 14.00 - 17.00. School of Biology staff will respond to your emails during these hours. Our team will provide a response to you within three working days.

Biology Teaching Office (Level 2), University of St Andrews, Biomolecular Sciences Building, North Haugh, St Andrews, Fife KY16 9ST

Email: bioteach@st-andrews.ac.uk

Tel: 01334 46 3602 or 3566

BL4286: Contributing Staff

[Prof Mike Ritchie](#)
(Module Organiser)

Professor

mgr@st-andrews.ac.uk

[Prof Nathan Bailey](#)

Professor

nwb3@st-andrews.ac.uk

[Prof Mike Ritchie](#)
(Module Organiser)

Professor

mgr@st-andrews.ac.uk

BL4286: Learning Outcomes

This module teaches a detailed understanding of modern research trends in evolutionary biology, based around following research in the top journals over the course of the semester. It also provides an introduction to common practise in academic publishing.

Students completing module BL4286 successfully should be able to:

- Understanding contemporary research in Evolutionary Biology

BL4286: Acquired Skills

Practical Skills

Transferable Skills

- Group discussion - participating
- Journal club
- Long individual presentation on given topic (>15 min)
- Podcast
- Handout (for presentation or poster)
- Critically evaluating sources/information
- Peer assessment
- Working in pairs/small groups

Policies

(Information in this section applies to all Biology Modules)

- The procedures and regulations followed by the School of Biology are outlined in the [University Handbook](#) and in the School of Biology UG handbook [JH booklet info \(st-andrews.ac.uk\)](#)
- All coursework associated with the module must be completed and submitted by its due date.
- Specific School regulations relating to absence reporting, penalties and rules for late submission of work, extensions for coursework, return of coursework, S-coding, Good Academic Practice and Academic Alert are stated in the School of Biology UG handbook [JH booklet info \(st-andrews.ac.uk\)](#) and students are required to carefully read these regulations.
- Students are also referred to the University Handbook, available at: <http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/studenthandbook/>