Special Topics Fall 2015

BIOL 4970/7970, 2 credit Sexual Selection

Tuesdays 4:00 – 5:30 pm Room TBA



Darwin proposed the theory of sexual selection to explain the gaudy and elaborate traits of animals that defied explanation via conventional models of natural selection. Almost 150 years since Darwin wrote his great treatise on sexual selection, the forces that drive the evolution of mating preferences and ornamental traits remain hotly debated. In this class we will consider all of the competing explanations for how sexual selection has produced the array of display traits that we observe in nature. This grad course will combine lecture with discussion. We will meet for 90 minutes per week. Weekly meetings will involve a lecture and student-led discussions and there will be a final essay exam.

For more information contact: Geoff Hill ghill@auburn.edu