SUGGESTED READING, COURSES, and other RESOURCES

This list provides a suggested reading list and resources for students to obtain skills and knowledge as outlined in the core requirements for Ph.D. students in the Graduate Program of Ecology and Evolution at Rutgers University. The list will be continuously updated and posted publicly on the E&E website.

TOPIC: GENERAL LIFE SCIENCE

Textbooks and other books


Classic research articles


Review articles

Non-E&E courses at Rutgers University (for E&E courses, please see the E&E website)

Courses at other institutions

Websites and other media

Extra-curricular and popular novels, movies, and other works


TOPIC: INDIVIDUALS, POPULATIONS, AND COMMUNITIES

Textbooks and other books


Van Straalen, N.M. and Roeloes, D. 2006. *An Introduction to Ecological Genomics*, especially chapters 4-7. This is “a textbook for a discipline that is yet to develop”, as written by the authors. It introduces a genomics perspective on classic issues in community ecology, life-history patterns, and ecological stress. Recommended by Henry John-Alder.


Classic research articles

Barkai, A. & McQuaid, C. (1988). *Predator-prey role reversal in a marine benthic ecosystem*. Science, 242, 62-64. Nice example of how even the most seemingly fundamental aspects of predator-prey interactions (who’s the predator and who’s the prey) can be density dependent. Recommended by Olaf Jensen.

Review articles

Non-E&E courses at Rutgers University (for E&E courses, please see the E&E website)

Courses at other institutions

Websites and other media

*Darwin, An origin of species*
(PBS interactive): [LINK](#) Undergraduate and Beginning Graduate Level. Recommended by Lena Struwe.

*Darwin’s Diary*
(PBS interactive): [LINK](#) Undergraduate and Beginning Graduate Level. Recommended by Lena Struwe.

*Evolution Enclaves: Darwin the Botanist and Origins of Life Research*,
interview with David Kohn by Steve Mirsky (Science Talk), (NPR Scientific American; read transcript, download or listen online): [LINK](#) Undergraduate and Beginning Graduate Level. Recommended by Lena Struwe.
Extra-curricular and popular novels, movies, and other works
Any of the David Attenborough “Life of…” videos (mammals, birds, invertebrates (“Life in the Undergrowth”), reptiles). Unbelievable photography, and a huge amount of excellent natural history and ecology. Recommended by J. Ehrenfeld

TOPIC: PHYLOGENETICS AND SYSTEMATICS

Textbooks and other books
Dawkins, R. 2005. The Ancestor's Tale: A Pilgrimage to the Dawn of Evolution. Undergraduate and Beginning Graduate Level. Interesting take on walking the phylogenetic tree down from humans to the smallest bacteria, also includes descriptions of many evolutionary concepts on both the macro and microllevel. Recommended by Lena Struwe.


Classic research articles

Review articles
Non-E&E courses at Rutgers University (for E&E courses, please see the E&E website)

Methods of Plant Systematics (3 credits). Rutgers (16: 765: 503). Hands-on course in plant systematics methods and techniques used in plant systematics, phylogenetics, and biogeography. Lab, software demos, and lectures will be intermingled with independent projects and discussions. how to write a good paper, peer-review. Taught by Lena Struwe, every second spring semester.

Plant Systematics

Courses at other institutions
Websites and other media

The complete work of Charles Darwin Online. Undergraduate to Advanced Graduate level. His books, articles, letters, it is all here, evolutionary topics. http://darwin-online.org.uk/ Recommended by Lena Struwe

All in the family
building phylogenetic trees, PBS (online interactive): LINK Undergraduate to Beginning Graduate level. Recommended by Lena Struwe.

Evolution 101.
University of California Museum of Paleontology (online tutorial): LINK Undergraduate to Beginning Graduate level. Recommended by Lena Struwe.

Extinction
(PBS interactive): LINK Recommended by Lena Struwe.

Judgment Day: Intelligent Design on Trial,
PBS NOVA (on-line video and other materials about the Dover trial): LINK Undergraduate to Beginning Graduate level. Recommended by Lena Struwe.

Phylogenetic Systematics,
University of California Museum of Paleontology (online tutorial): LINK Beginning Graduate level. Recommended by Lena Struwe.

Understanding Evolution,
University of California Museum of Paleontology (online tutorial): LINK Undergraduate to Beginning Graduate level. Recommended by Lena Struwe.

Extra-curricular and popular novels, movies, and other works

TOPIC: ECOSYSTEMS

Textbooks and other books

An excellent example of how ecosystems analyses are done, and how they are applied to understanding human effects and disturbances. Short but well worth the read. Recommended by J. Ehrenfeld.


**Classic research articles**


**Review articles**


Non-E&E courses at Rutgers University (for E&E courses, please see the E&E website)

Courses at other institutions

Websites and other media
The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. A unique attempt to catalog the most important ecosystem changes at a global scale and envision alternative “scenarios” for society and their ecosystem consequences. [http://www.millenniumassessment.org/en/index.aspx](http://www.millenniumassessment.org/en/index.aspx) Recommended by Olaf Jensen

Extra-curricular and popular novels, movies, and other works

**TOPIC: BIODIVERSITY, TEMPORAL AND SPATIAL SCALE**

Textbooks and other books

Classic research articles


Review articles
examination of the various reasons and mechanisms that most organisms fail to be generalists. A good introduction to how evolutionary biologists pose questions and think them through. Recommended by Siobain Duffy.


Non-E&E courses at Rutgers University (for E&E courses, please see the E&E website)

Courses at other institutions
Courses at Woods Hole: Microbial Diversity, etc. Check current offerings. Recommended by Lena Struwe.

Websites and other media

Classifying life
(PBS interactive): LINK Recommended by Lena Struwe.

Fearless Planet: Earth Story
Discovery Channel (view online, 44 min): LINK Recommended by Lena Struwe.

History of Life on Earth
(PBS interactive): LINK Recommended by Lena Struwe.

Origins of Earth
(PBS interactive): LINK Recommended by Lena Struwe. Plant Evolution Timeline
University of Cambridge (online interactive): LINK Recommended by Lena Struwe.

Tree of Life
(PBS interactive): LINK Recommended by Lena Struwe.
Extra-curricular and popular novels, movies, and other works

TOPIC: ANALYSIS OF DATA

Textbooks and other books


Tufte, E. 2005. *The Visual Display of Quantitative Information, ed. 2*. General audience level. How to make great graphics with the highest information content, one of several great books by Ed Tufte about visual communication. Recommended by Lena Struwe.

Classic research articles


Review articles

Non-E&E courses at Rutgers University (for E&E courses, please see the E&E website)

Courses at other institutions

Websites and other media

*AD (Automatic Differentiation) Model Builder (ADMB).* Website for downloading the best available software (now free) for many kinds of nonlinear optimization (estimating the parameters of nonlinear models by fitting models to data). If you’re running up against the limits of functions like Solver (Excel), fnmins (Matlab), or optim (R), ADMB is the place to go. Unfortunately, ADMB is not at all user friendly. [http://admb-project.org/](http://admb-project.org/) Recommended by Olaf Jensen.

*The R Project.* Website for downloading the most widely used (and free) software for statistical analysis and modeling in ecology (and many other disciplines). [http://www.r-project.org/](http://www.r-project.org/) Recommended by Olaf Jensen.
Extra-curricular and popular novels, movies, and other works


**TOPIC: ACADEMIC INTEGRITY, INFORMATION DISSEMINATION, MENTORING, TEACHING, ETC.**

Textbooks and other books

Carraway, Leslie N. 2009. *Improve Scientific Writing and Avoid Perishing*. Amer. Midland Naturalist 161:361-370. Another very useful article on how to assemble a manuscript, with many good pointers on writing. Recommended by J. Ehrenfeld.


Donovan, M.S., J. Bransford, & J. Pellegrino. 2000. *How people learn: bridging research and practice*, National Academies Press. This is a very accessible book that provides the reader a global perspective on both theory and application in education. This is a nice way to become familiar with the research behind the best practices in education and can be useful for teaching philosophies. Recommended by Rebecca Jordan.


Nilson, L. 2010. *Teaching at its best: a research-based resource for college instructors*. Book. This is an excellent and very comprehensive resource for those
interested in post-secondary education. This book will provide practical tips on almost every aspect of preparing for the college classroom. Recommended by Rebecca Jordan.

Reif, F. 2008. **Applying cognitive science to education: thinking and learning in scientific and other complex domains**. Book. This book digs deeply into cognitive theory and the science classroom. One need not have a background in the cognitive sciences but should be prepared for a deep exploration into cognitive ideas. Recommended by Rebecca Jordan.


Strunk, W. 2009. **Elements of style: original edition**. Book. This is a writing classic and an excellent shelf reference. Recommended by Rebecca Jordan.

**Classic research articles**


**Review articles**


**Non-E&E courses at Rutgers University** (for E&E courses, please see the E&E website)

**Courses at other institutions**

**Websites and other media**

*Chronicle of Higher Education Advice section* (though many articles in the CoHE
might be of interest) http://chronicle.com/section/Advise/66/ The Chronicle predominately covers teaching-oriented institutions, including community colleges, so this can be a great resource for teaching advice. Recommended by Siobain Duffy.

**Female Science Professor.** A tenured physicist relates how she has navigated grad school, postdocing, mentoring, applying for funding as a junior and senior researcher, negotiating multiple jobs, teaching, and work-life balance. Sometimes off-topic (novels, cats) but some of the best mentoring-oriented blogging out there. http://science-professor.blogspot.com/ Recommended by Siobain Duffy.

**General Communication website.**

**General advice about writing website.**

**Resources for students on Academic Integrity.** web link list at Rutgers University http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/students.shtml Recommended by Rebecca Jordan.

**Some Modest Advice for Graduate Students** Accept few imitations of this empowering screed. http://www.yale.edu/eeb/stearns/advice.htm Recommended by Siobain Duffy.

**Surviving Graduate Schools websites.**
http://eebio.tulane.edu/graduate/survive-grad-school.php and (with focus on computer science, but still relevant) http://www.cs.unc.edu/~azuma/hitch4.html. Recommended by Rebecca Jordan.

**Extra-curricular and popular novels, movies, and other works**
Bill Bryson is one of the world’s most beloved and bestselling writers. In *A Short History of Nearly Everything*, he takes his ultimate journey into the most intriguing and consequential questions that science seeks to answer. It’s a dazzling quest, the intellectual odyssey of a lifetime, as this insatiably curious writer attempts to understand everything that has transpired from the Big Bang to the rise of civilization. Or, as the author puts it, “how we went from there being nothing at all to there being something, and then how a little of that something turned into us, and also what happened...”

Bill Bryson’s bestselling books include *A Walk in the Woods*, *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid*, and *A Short History of Nearly Everything* (which won the Aventis Prize in Britain and the Descartes Prize, the European Union’s highest literary award). He was chancellor of Durham University, England’s third oldest university, from 2005 to 2011, and is an honorary fellow of Britain’s Royal Society.

About the book. Listening to Bill Bryson’s books, you will find it easier than ever to access a science work. *A Short History of Nearly Everything*, published in 2003, is one of them. Thanks to his sense of humor, the American non-fiction writer, Bill Bryson, has brought the world of knowledge to many people, and helped them easily communicate with science. Now, the book’s audio version is also a helpful mean for readers and listeners worldwide. The book gives you a general view of the universe, especially geology and biology. Other scientists’ stories are also told by Bill Bryson’s humorous voice. This science book records nearly all the author’s quests for everything. Therefore, by listening carefully to the book, you may find answers for your own questions.
We must be willing to let go of the life we have planned, so as to have the life that is waiting for us.

― E. M. Forster.