

BIO/GEO 353 SPG 2012

PAPER #2, due Thursday, May 3, 2011, 5 PM [DO NOT BE LATE ON THIS – SEVERE PENALTIES FOR LATENESS]

For paper number 2, I am asking you to do the following:

Select a specific topic of your choice.

The topic **must be firmly within the syllabus of this course.**

Your topic can take two forms: (1) The topic can have a title that is a proposition, and you must defend it: Examples (taken from another field): Population growth of frogs is usually limited by predation levels on tadpoles. Or: Tree biodiversity in Costa Rica cloud forests is regulated by bark chewing insects. Or: Beech forest tree growth is controlled by nutrient limitation combined with rabbit predation. (2) The topic can be a specific subject area that can be adequately explained in a short essay.

I REQUIRE PREAPPROVAL OF YOUR TOPIC. I will be happy to give you my opinion. It is best to email it to me(levinton@life.bio.sunysb.edu) **BY APRIL 9.** THIS PART WILL BE 10 PERCENT OF YOUR GRADE

Write an essay, **8 pages maximum, double-spaced with at least a 1 inch margin on right** (NOT COUNTING REFERENCES AND FIGURES) on this general proposition or subject in marine ecology, explain why it is important, what progress has been made on the solution of this problem, and what needs to be done to continue to make progress on this problem.

You must include the following in your essay:

- (1) Citation of 8 standard published papers or scholarly specialized books in the field (scholarly books do **not** include the encyclopedia, textbooks, the text for this course, newspaper articles, etc.).
- (2) Statement of the problem you are discussing or the proposition you are defending and why it is important.
- (3) Emphasis on open and unsolved questions relating to this general problem.
- (4) You have a lot of latitude in choosing a problem. It can range from a study of a specific process (e.g., role of predation) in a specific environment, all the way to controls of diversity throughout the ocean.
- (5) Original thinking is encouraged.

Section headings are welcome in your essay. Remember, organization in such a paper is very important.

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