

**Evolutionary medicine  
(Senior Capstone Course)  
ZOO 4983, 3 Credit hours**

**Instructor: Dr. Ingo Schlupp, OU Department of Zoology**

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**Text: Nesse, R. M. & Williams, G. C., Why we get sick. Vintage Books 1994. This text will be the basis for the course, you must read it prior to arriving at the station). Bring the book with you!**

**The aims of the capstone are:**

- **explore the interface of human affairs with themes you will have encountered at OU**
- **develop skilled critical evaluations of science and literature**
- **strengthen public speaking skills with discussion of the reading material**
- **practice and polish written communication**

**Writing and other communication skills will be very important for the course. If you feel that you could use help developing your writing skills, please consider consulting the Conoco Phillips Writing Center (<http://www.ou.edu/writingcenter/>).**

You will be participating in long and intense discussions with your peers. If that is terrifying to you, this might not be the best course for you.

**What we will be doing:**

We will study the interface of modern medicine and evolutionary biology from “superbugs to human behavior. Why is HIV such a problem and why is it so difficult to treat. What will happen if the bird flu jumps over to humans and how do pandemics happen? Why have we not all died from the Marburg virus if it kills so quickly?

I want to keep the format as open as possible and we will integrate your background and interests into our discussions. So, between now and the course read the newspaper (or internet) with an open mind and bring that info with you to the course.

## **GRADING FORMULA**

Typed critiques of material 20%

Your journal 20%

Participation in the discussion 40%

Presentations (at least 2) in front of the class 20%

I want you to keep a daily journal of your thoughts and ideas about the discussions in class. This can be a typed document, or a blog. In that document I expect to find a daily self-evaluation of your progress. I will keep the journal confidential