

## **"Moodle" Blogs and Discussions**

### **Ethology and Behavioral Ecology (Biol 287)**

We are going to use the Moodle on-line "form" to continue the discussions we have inside the classroom and to provide direction for future discussion. Everyone is expected to participate by reading posts and by making their own posts. I will list the main topics of discussion (anyone can suggest one) and then you should follow up with a discussion of each other's (and my) postings. Typically we add new topics each week.

**Guidelines:** I don't think I need to say this, but this is an academic form. So, please keep the discussion respectful and at a high level (but an occasional joke in good taste and not at someone's expense is always appreciated). Also, please refrain from using texting shorthands. The only shorthands I expect to see are those we use in class and commonly within conservation biology (e.g., PVA for "population viability analysis" or "red list" or IUCN, etc.). This said, you do not need to be overly formal. The general tone of good classroom discussion will be great.

Please check the form daily. You need not post daily (and in fact, you can choose not to post at all but it will affect your class participation grade). Also feel free to upload materials if they are small (<1MB) and if you really believe that others will find them interesting (even if not everyone will read them).

Note that you can also post questions that you would like me to answer if you believe them to be of general interest. I will either post to these or answer in class (depends in part on available time).

**Grades:** I will be grading these postings on their quality and frequency and they will form part of your participation grade. This is a way that those of you who are more reticent to speak in class will have a chance to express yourself (and earn participation points). But again, remember that I also expect participation in class. Effective communication via both oral and written forms will be important to your success in professional life.

**Technical:** Moodle login can be found at the "login" link on CHC website pages or directly at: <https://learning.holycross.edu/hcmoodle/login/index.php>

After you login, please go to the link for our course (Biology 287) and look for the latest discussion. Click on it to see to postings and to add your own. You will have 30 minutes to edit/reconsider it before it is viewable by everyone. Also note that you can subscribe to the form and each time a post is made, you will get an email to that effect.

I will provide a brief demonstration in class if needed but the other students have found it easy to use.