

Systematics: a Course of Lectures is designed for use in an advanced undergraduate or introductory graduate-level course in systematics and is meant to present core systematic concepts and literature. The book covers topics such as the history of systematic thinking and fundamental tenets of the field including species concepts, homology, and hypothesis testing. Analytical techniques are covered in detail with chapters devoted to sequence alignment, optimality criteria, and methods such as distance, parsimony, maximum likelihood and Bayesian approaches. Trees and tree searching, consensus and super-tree methods, support measures, and other relevant topics are each covered in their own sections.

The work is not meant to be a bleeding-edge statement or in-depth review of the entirety of systematics, but to cover the basics as broadly as could be handled in a one-semester course. Most chapters (with exercises) are designed to be a single 1.5 hour class, with those on parsimony, likelihood, posterior probability, and tree searching two classes (2 x 1.5 hours).

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