

**Plant –Human Interactions
Literature Reviews**

Turn in 2 reviews of recent papers in which plant-human ecological and/or evolutionary interactions are investigated. These are expected to be short reviews (a maximum of 3 pages, double-spaced). One of these papers can be on the topic for which you lead discussion. Appropriate journals to search include: *Economic Botany*, *American Journal of Botany*, *Ecology*, *Evolution*, *Molecular Ecology*, *Oecologia*, *Botanical Journal of the Linnaean Society*, *Plant Physiology*, *Phytologia*, *Journal of Ecology*, *Canadian Journal of Botany*, and *American Naturalist*. The articles you review should be reporting new research (i.e. do not use review articles) and should be from the current periodicals reading room (or on-line and published within the last 16 months).

One assignment must be completed before Fall Break, and the second must be completed by the Thanksgiving Break.

The following is intended to clarify the literature review assignments. Please see me for any questions regarding choice of papers or further clarification about the writing.

- 1) Find an article from the current (unbound) literature that presents original research. If you are using on-line resources, limited your searching to the last 16 months. Do not use reviews unless an explicit hypothesis is being tested with the reviewed data. My hope is that you will go into the current periodicals room in the library and start thumbing through the most recent back issues of relevant journals. Pick an article that looks interesting to you and suitable for the writing assignment. There is no penalty for choosing a short article or one with a straightforward experimental design.
- 2) Read the article carefully and critically. Consider whether the authors adequately motivate their study in their introduction. Sketch out for yourself a schematic of their experimental design and be certain you understand what they did. Compare the fit of their interpretations with the details of their results.
- 3) Write a short review of the article. The review should be typed, double spaced, and no longer than three pages. Virtuous papers will be characterized by brevity and clarity. Devote roughly equivalent attention to:
 - i) a description of what was done and why they suggest that it's interesting
 - ii) a summary of their results and the conclusions they reached
 - iii) an analysis of strong and weak aspects of their report, with special attention to the adequacy of the experimental design and the support that their data provide for their conclusions.