



Honors Biology Extra Credit Opportunity: Spring Semester 2013

DUE DATE: BY MAY 14th - no exceptions!

A. To earn up to 1% extra credit to be added to the semester grade (actual % awarded based on quality):

1. Visit the *Evolving Planet* exhibit at The Field Museum (<http://www.fieldmuseum.org/>) in Chicago. Admission to *Evolving Planet* requires a timed-entry ticket that specifies a 15-minute window for entering the exhibition. Once you have entered the exhibition, you may stay as long as you like. Admission to *Evolving Planet* is free with basic admission and may be reserved at any admissions booth or at the exhibition. Plan your visit during off-peak hours and definitely buy your tickets in advance online - you won't regret doing so! Certain exhibits require a ticket upgrade. To purchase tickets online: <https://tickets.fieldmuseum.org/public/> Additionally, expect to pay for parking if using the museum lots. (see website for info).

You MUST provide proof of your visit: ticket stub, picture of you in front of the exhibit, etc.

2. Complete the Museum Visit Packet completely and accurately. Your grade will be based on your ability to provide thoughtful, reflective answers. *Accuracy of your responses is important if you wish to receive the full 1% from this option. If, for some reason, a portion of the exhibit was "closed" or inoperative – simply note this in your packet. You may also be able to find information in the museum's supporting website for this exhibit: <http://archive.fieldmuseum.org/evolvingplanet/>*

3. Plan on your visit taking several hours within the *Evolving Planet* exhibit alone! Take time to read signs, think, and reflect on what you learn. Resist the temptation to press buttons, listen for a few moments then dash onwards - be a model for other visitors.

B. To earn up to 2% extra credit to be added to the semester grade (actual % awarded based on quality) you may choose to do both option A and B :

1. Select a topic or concept presented in this exhibit that interests you and explore it in depth.
2. Demonstrate your mastery of this topic or concept by writing a brief research essay. This paper should be about 4 pages long and be based on what you learned from the exhibit as well as what you learned from other print or electronic sources (the quality of the sources are important.)
3. The following outline may help you organize your thoughts - *but do not feel limited by this structure*. Consult with your instructor if unsure, or have other ideas. The purpose of this opportunity is to give you the freedom to explore and go where your curiosity leads you!
 - a. Concept identification - and why you are interested in this concept...
 - b. What I learned from the exhibits...
 - c. What I learned from other sources (at least 2 - 3?)...
 - d. What I gained from this experience or how this has impacted me or my understanding of the world...

Probably all organic beings which have ever lived on this earth have descended from some one primordial form, into which life was first breathed ... There is grandeur in this view of life ... that, whilst this planet has gone cycling on according to the fixed law of gravity, from so simple a beginning endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been, and are being evolved.

- Charles Darwin, *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* (1859).

