Reading Proposals
BIO534

During the last part of BIO534 lecture we will read and critique ecology articles from the primary literature that include an ecological model of some type. The primary goal of this part of the course is for us to apply what we have learned to read and critically evaluate the quality of selected ecology papers that whose results are at least partially based on modeling.   A secondary goal is for these papers to provide examples of a diversity of model types, uses, and applications. Third, this is an opportunity for the class to guide the content towards their specific interests.

Assignment
To select the papers we will critique, each student must submit a 1-page proposal for a paper they would like the class to read. The class will then use these proposals to select (by a majority vote) which papers we will discuss.

For the proposal, you need to identify an ecological paper in the primary, peer-reviewed literature that includes a model of some type as part of the science presented. The model type can vary. It does not have to be just the model types we have already discussed in class; however, it should not be a purely descriptive statistical model. Please select papers with models that are more processes based and/or dynamic. Also, as our goals is to better understand the current practice of ecological modeling, please select papers from the last 5 years.

Your proposals should be no more that 1 page (all inclusive). Please provide a brief description of the paper and the model it uses, along with a persuasive essay on why you think we should read this paper. Consider how it will contribute to our collective understanding of the use and abuse of ecological models. Please also include a full reference for the article and hyperlink when possible.

Email a PDF of your proposal by the due date listed on the website with the file named as follows "YourLastName_ReadingProposal_bio534.pdf". Files not following this format will not be accepted.

Assessment
Proposals will be evaluated based on their successful completion and whether the student follows the assignment specifications.