Course Objectives:

Through critical review and discussion of historical and contemporary literature:

1) gain an understanding of the theoretical basis of foraging ecology
2) evaluate case studies that attempt to employ/test theoretical predictions.

Course format is a weekly discussion session. A number of papers (~2-4) will be assigned for each meeting. In the discussion, a pre-designated student will lead a discussion of one of the assigned papers. All students will be required to read each paper and contribute to the discussions. The lead student will assume that others have read the papers and will not simply give a book report on the assigned paper. Rather, the leader may, for example, challenge a conclusion or method in the paper, identify hypotheses that may be suggested by the paper and initiate a discussion of how to test those hypotheses, identify some aspect of the paper that they fail to understand and seek clarification, or do something else that is creative. Discussion leaders will be expected to be familiar with important material in the literature cited section of their paper. The instructor will facilitate discussion and provide a summary that synthesizes the literature discussed during each weekly meeting. Students will be evaluated on the basis of their performance as discussion leaders and as discussion participants, and on written Mid-term and Final written exams. Sitting there quietly will not be a successful course completion strategy.

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend and participate in all class sessions.

Grading Policy: To obtain an A in this course, you must earn it.

1) 30% - Contribution to seminar discussions led by others,
2) 30% - Discussion leadership,
3) 40% - Midterm (20%) and Final (20%) exams.

Scheduled final exam date and time for course, Thursday 6 May 2004, probably at 2pm.

Incompletes will be granted only in exceptional circumstances (e.g. death).