Dear BioSci 132 Students,

Welcome to Concepts in Evolution section #94596. This letter will provide you with important information regarding the course.

The required text for the class is: An Introduction to Biological Evolution by Kenneth V. Kardong, 2008, 2nd edition, McGraw Hill, New York, NY

In this course, we will explore the meaning of evolution and differentiate between macro and micro evolution. The observable patterns and outcomes of evolution will be analyzed as well as the causes and evidence for evolution. The important roles of natural selection, genetic drift and mutation in evolution will also be addressed.

This class is 100% online. There will be no face to face meetings. Our semester-length class begins February 10th and ends June 5th, 2014. The first day on which you can access the class via Blackboard is February 10th. To confirm your place in the class, you should log in to the website and begin participating no later than February 11th, 11:59 p.m. If you do not access the class website and begin participating by February 11th, 11:59 p.m., you will be dropped from the class as a no-show.

All exams are online and must be taken within a 48 hour window. There are no makeup exams. You will have 3 hours to complete each exam.

The dates for the exams are as follows:
MT1 - March 11-12
MT2 - April 22-23
MT3 - May 20-21
Final - June 3-4

Please plan to visit the course's website nearly every other day. This is a 3 unit online class that corresponds to 3 hours/week in a face to face class. Therefore, please plan to spend at least 6 hours a week on the readings and assignments for this class.

Technology requirements for the course are basic. You must have an email address, regular access to the Internet, a web browser, and a word-processing program such as Microsoft Word.

The following is a list of sites that may help you with your online class experience.

- Blackboard log in: http://bb9.canyons.edu/
- Distance Learning home page: http://www.canyons.edu/distancelearning
- Counseling 070 information: http://www.canyons.edu/offices/distance_learning/info/COUNS070.asp
More information about the course will be detailed in the class syllabus, which you'll find at the Blackboard course website.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about the course, don’t hesitate to contact me. I look forward to our semester together.

Jeannie Chari,
Associate Professor, Biology/Environmental Science
College of the Canyons
26455 Rockwell Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91355
661.362.3383
jeannie.chari@canyons.edu