

9.14: Homework Assignment No. 1

Due date: March 7, 2005 (Monday)

There will be no quiz until March 9, 2005 (Wed). But you should still try to keep up with your reading.

1. Nauta suggests that the monosynaptic stretch reflex arc might be a relatively recent “invention” of evolution (see p. 71 of chp. 5). Counterintuitive as this idea may seem, can you still suggest a reason justifying such a proposal?
2. “Ontogenesis is a brief and rapid recapitulation of phylogenesis,” thus stated Ernst Haeckel in his *Riddle of the Universe at the Close of the Nineteenth Century* (1899). In what ways is this statement both useful and misleading? In your response, include definitions of the terms “ontogenesis” and “phylogenesis”, as well as a discussion of why the study of embryos is relevant to theories of evolution.

I would appreciate if you can limit your response to each question to a maximum of one page (11 points with spacing of 1.5 lines). The more concise your response, the better.