BISC 322: GENERAL ECOLOGY (Fall 2017)

Lecture: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9:00 am - 9:50 am
Location: Bryant Hall 209

Instructor: Dr. Peter Zee
Email: zee@olemiss.edu
Office: Shoemaker Hall 406

Office hours: Wed., Fri. 10:00 am - 11:30 am. If these times don’t work for you, please email me to make an appointment for a different time.

Lab TAs: Bram Stone & Eric Weingarten (see lab syllabus for more information)
Labs begin second week of the semester in Shoemaker 225.


Reading: I highly recommend reading the textbook chapter before the corresponding lecture.

Course objectives and learning outcomes:
A goal of this course is to enhance your existing curiosity about and understanding of the biological world. After completing this course, you should understand and appreciate:

1. The scope of the field of ecology.
2. The relationships of organisms with each other and their environment.
3. How ecologists pursue ecological questions.

These outcomes will be achieved by evaluating performance on exams based on lecture material.

Attendance: Attendance at each lecture is expected. For each lecture, students must scan student ID on attendance scanners. Be on time to lecture.

Exams: Exams will be based on material covered in lecture. There will be three exams and one final exam. Exams will be multiple choice. Bring Scantron and #2 pencils. The lowest of the first three exams can be dropped.

Final Exam: Wednesday, December 6 at 8:00am.
The final will be comprehensive, but weighted towards material after exam #3. Note that material throughout the course will build on previous material.

Make-up exams: Make-up exams will be able to be rescheduled only in cases with an official excuse.

Grades: Each exam accounts for 25% of your grade (with one exam grade dropped). Exams count for 75% of the final grade. The lab grade will account for the remaining 25%. Attendance and participation have the potential to affect your grade in borderline cases.

A — 90-100%
B — 80-89%
C — 70-79%
D — 60-69%
F -- <60%
Electronic devices: Turn off and put away all cell phones and other devices during class. I highly recommend taking notes by hand rather than computer.

Disability Access and Inclusion: The University of Mississippi is committed to the creation of inclusive learning environments for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your full inclusion and participation, or to accurate assessment of your achievement, please contact the course instructor as soon as possible.

***Any changes to the syllabus will be announced in lecture and/or Blackboard***

LECTURE and EXAM SCHEDULE

8/21 -- Course introduction and overview
8/23 -- Web of Life (Chapter 1)
8/25 -- Doing ecology (Chapter 1)
8/28 -- Physical Environment (Chapter 2)
8/30 -- Biosphere 1: Terrestrial (Chapter 3)
9/1 -- Biosphere 2: Aquatic + Marine (Chapter 3)
9/4 -- LABOR DAY
9/6 -- Coping w/ Environment 1: temperature and water (Chapter 4)
9/8 -- Coping w/ Environment 2: energy (Chapter 4)
9/11 -- ***** Review *****
9/13 -- ***** EXAM 1 *****
9/15 -- Evolution and Ecology 1 (Chapter 6)
9/18 -- Evolution and Ecology 2 (Chapter 6)
9/20 -- Life History (Chapter 7)
9/22 -- Behavioral Ecology (Chapter 8)
9/25 -- Populations 1: Distribution and Abundance (Chapter 9)
9/28 -- Populations 2: Growth and Regulation (Chapter 10)
9/29 -- Populations 2: Growth and Regulation (Chapter 10)
10/2 -- Populations 3: Dynamics (Chapter 11)
10/4 -- ***** Review *****
10/6 -- ***** EXAM 2 *****
10/9 -- Competition (Chapter 12)
10/11 -- Predation / Herbivory (Chapter 13)
10/13 -- Parasitism (Chapter 14)
10/16 -- Mutualism (Chapter 15)
10/18 -- Community Ecology (Chapter 16)
10/20 -- Community Dynamics 1 (Chapter 17)
10/23 -- Community Dynamics 2 (Chapter 17)
10/25 -- Biogeography (Chapter 18)
10/27 -- Diversity (Chapter 19)
10/30 -- Diversity 2 (Chapter 19)
11/1 -- ***** Review *****
11/3 -- ***** EXAM 3 *****

11/6 -- Introduction to ecosystems (Chapter 20)
11/8 -- Productivity (Chapter 20)
11/10 -- Food webs 1 (Chapter 21)

11/13 -- Food webs 2 (Chapter 21)
11/15 -- Nutrient Supply + Cycling (Chapter 22)
11/17 -- Conservation Biology (Chapter 23)

11/20 -- THANKSGIVING
11/22 -- THANKSGIVING
11/24 -- THANKSGIVING

11/27 -- Landscape Ecology (Chapter 24)
11/29 -- Global Ecology (Chapter 25)
12/1 -- ***** Review *****

12/6 -- ***** FINAL EXAM (8am) *****

Enjoy the semester!