BISC 322: GENERAL ECOLOGY (Fall 2019)

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 328

Office hours: Wed 10:00 am - 11:30 am and Thu 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm
If these times don’t work for you, please email me to make an appointment for a different time.

Lab TAs: Eric Weingarten and Griffin Williams (see Lab Syllabus for more information)


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 environments.
3. How ecologists pursue ecological questions.
4. Reading and interpreting graphical information and data.

These outcomes will be achieved by evaluating student understanding during lectures and performance on exams based on lecture material.

Attendance: Attendance at each lecture is required. For each lecture, students must scan student ID on attendance scanners. Be on time to lecture. Attendance scanners will not register tardy attendance.

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 (red) and #2 pencils. The lowest of the first three exams can be dropped.

Quizzes: There will quizzes over the course of the semester. Four of these quizzes will count towards your grade. The quizzes will be announced in lecture ahead of time.

Final Exam: Wednesday, December 11 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. You are required to take the final exam. The final exam cannot be dropped.

Make-up exams: Make-up exams will be able to be rescheduled only in cases with an official documented excuse. Quizzes cannot be made up.

Grades: Each exam accounts for 25% of your grade (with one exam grade dropped). The final exam cannot be used as your dropped exam. Exams count for 75% of the final grade. Your top 4 quizzes will count for a combined 5% of the final grade. The lab grade will account for the remaining 20%. Attendance and participation have the potential to affect your grade in borderline cases. There are no +/- grades.
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. Taking notes by hand is highly recommended.

**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. Barriers may include, but are not necessarily limited to, timed exams and in-class assignments, difficulty with the acquisition of lecture content, inaccessible web content, and the use of non-captioned or non-transcribed video and audio files. If you are approved through SDS, you must log in to your Rebel Access portal at https://sds.olemiss.edu to request approved accommodations. If you are NOT approved through SDS, you must contact Student Disability Services at 662-915-7128 so the office can: 1. determine your eligibility for accommodations, 2. disseminate to your instructors a Faculty Notification Letter, 3. facilitate the removal of barriers, and 4. ensure you have equal access to the same opportunities for success that are available to all students.

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

**LECTURE and EXAM SCHEDULE**

8/26 -- Course introduction and overview
8/28 -- Web of Life (Chapter 1)
8/30 -- Doing ecology (Chapter 1)

9/2 -- LABOR DAY
9/4 -- Physical Environment (Chapter 2)
9/6 -- Biosphere 1: Terrestrial (Chapter 3)
9/9 -- Biosphere 2: Aquatic + Marine (Chapter 3)
9/11 -- Coping w/ Environment 1: temperature and water (Chapter 4)
9/13 -- Coping w/ Environment 2: energy (Chapter 4)

9/16 -- ***** Review *****
9/18 -- ***** EXAM 1 *****
9/20 -- Evolution and Ecology 1 (Chapter 6)

9/23 -- Evolution and Ecology 2 (Chapter 6)
9/25 -- Life History (Chapter 7)
9/27 -- Behavioral Ecology (Chapter 8)

9/30 -- Populations 1: Distribution and Abundance (Chapter 9)
10/2 -- Populations 2: Growth and Regulation (Chapter 10)
10/4 -- Populations 2: Growth and Regulation (Chapter 10)

10/7 -- Populations 3: Dynamics (Chapter 11)
10/9 -- ***** Review *****
10/11 -- ***** EXAM 2 *****
10/14 -- Competition (Chapter 12)
10/16 -- Predation / Herbivory (Chapter 13)
10/18 -- Parasitism (Chapter 14)
10/21 -- Mutualism (Chapter 15)
10/23 -- Community Ecology (Chapter 16)
10/25 -- Community Dynamics 1 (Chapter 17)
10/28 -- Community Dynamics 2 (Chapter 17)
10/30 -- Biogeography (Chapter 18)
11/1 -- Diversity (Chapter 19)
11/4 -- Diversity 2 (Chapter 19)
11/6 -- ***** Review *****
11/8 -- ***** EXAM 3 *****
11/11 -- Introduction to ecosystems (Chapter 20)
11/13 -- Productivity (Chapter 20)
11/15 -- Food webs 1 (Chapter 21)
11/18 -- Food webs 2 (Chapter 21)
11/20 -- Nutrient Supply + Cycling (Chapter 22)
11/22 -- Conservation Biology (Chapter 23)
11/25 -- THANKSGIVING
11/27 -- THANKSGIVING
11/29 -- THANKSGIVING
12/2 -- Landscape Ecology (Chapter 24)
12/4 -- Global Ecology (Chapter 25)
12/6 -- ***** Review *****

12/11 -- ***** FINAL EXAM (8am) *****

Enjoy the semester!

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