

## **BISC 322: GENERAL ECOLOGY (Fall 2020)**

**Remote Lecture:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9:00 am - 9:50 am

**Instructor:** Dr. Peter Zee

**Email:** zee@olemiss.edu

**Office:** Shoemaker Hall 328

**Office hours:** Wed 10:00 am - 11:30 am via Zoom

If this time doesn't work for you, please email me to make an appointment for a different time. You can also email me specific questions at any time about course material.

**Lab TAs:** Griffin Williams and Brooke Allen (see Lab Syllabus for more information)

**Textbook:** Ecology, by Michael L. Cain, William D. Bowman, and Sally D. Hacker

**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.

**ZOOM LECTURES:** Lecture material will be posted as Zoom Cloud Recordings in Blackboard. I will also email out any links to the lecture material.

### **Assessments (exams and quizzes) will be done on Blackboard.**

**Exams:** Exams will be based on material covered in lecture. There will be three exams and one final exam. The exams are multiple choice. The lowest of the first three exams can be dropped.

**Quizzes:** There will be quizzes over the course of the semester. Five of these quizzes will count towards your grade. The quizzes will be announced ahead of time, and completed on Blackboard.

**Participation questions:** There will be participation questions based on lectures to be answered on Blackboard. Completion of these questions will constitute your attendance and participation grade.

**Grades:** Each exam accounts for 20% of your grade (with one exam grade dropped). The final exam cannot be used as your dropped exam. The final exam will be worth 25% of the grade. Altogether, exams will count for 65% of the final grade.

Your top 5 quizzes will count for a combined 10% of the final grade.

The lab grade will account for the 20%.

Participation and attendance will be worth 5% of the grade.

There are no +/- grades.

**Course grading scale:**

A — 90-100%

B — 80-89%

C — 70-79%

D — 60-69%

F -- <60%

**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](tel: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**

8/24 -- Course introduction and overview

8/26 -- Web of Life (Chapter 1)

8/28 -- Doing ecology (Chapter 1)

8/31 --Physical Environment (Chapter 2)

9/2 -- Biosphere 1: Terrestrial (Chapter 3)  
9/4 -- Biosphere 2: Aquatic + Marine (Chapter 3)

9/7 – LABOR DAY

9/9 -- Coping w/ Environment 1: temperature and water (Chapter 4)  
9/11 -- Coping w/ Environment 2: energy (Chapter 4)

**9/14 -- \*\*\*\*\* EXAM 1 \*\*\*\*\***

9/16 -- Evolution and Ecology 1 (Chapter 6)  
9/18 -- Evolution and Ecology 2 (Chapter 6)

9/21 -- Life History (Chapter 7)  
9/23 -- Behavioral Ecology (Chapter 8)  
9/25 -- Populations 1: Distribution and Abundance (Chapter 9)

9/28 -- Populations 2: Growth and Regulation (Chapter 10)  
9/30 -- Populations 2: Growth and Regulation (Chapter 10)  
10/2 -- Populations 3: Dynamics (Chapter 11)

**10/5 -- \*\*\*\*\* EXAM 2 \*\*\*\*\***

10/7 -- Competition (Chapter 14)  
10/9 -- Predation / Herbivory (Chapter 12)

10/12 -- Parasitism (Chapter 13)  
10/14 -- Mutualism (Chapter 15)  
10/16 -- Community Ecology (Chapter 16)

10/19 -- Community Dynamics 1 (Chapter 17)  
10/21 -- Community Dynamics 2 (Chapter 17)  
10/23 -- Biogeography (Chapter 18)

10/26 -- Diversity (Chapter 19)  
10/28 -- Diversity 2 (Chapter 19)

**10/30 -- \*\*\*\*\* EXAM 3 \*\*\*\*\***

11/2 -- Ecosystems and productivity (Chapter 20)  
11/4 -- Food webs (Chapter 21)  
11/6 -- Food webs (Chapter 21)

11/9 -- Nutrient Supply + Cycling (Chapter 22)  
11/11 -- Conservation and landscape ecology (Chapter 23/24)  
11/13 -- Global Ecology (Chapter 25)

11/16 -- \*\*\*\* Review \*\*\*\*

**11/20 -- \*\*\*\*\* FINAL EXAM (8am) \*\*\*\*\***

*Enjoy the semester!*

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### **COVID-19 Policies and Protocols**

-Students attending the virtual component of hybrid, remote, or online courses are subject to the same attendance policy and procedures as traditional students. However, participation is defined in a different manner. The University's "Attendance Policy for Online Education" states: "Student attendance in online courses is defined as active participation in the course as described in the individual course syllabus." If students fail to meet online attendance requirements as stated in the syllabus, they will be given an absence.

-Students have been informed of the COVID-19 guidelines for the school year (including face covering, social distancing, hand hygiene, etc.); therefore, students will not be allowed in classroom spaces when they are out of compliance with these guidelines.

-The University's Academic Conduct and Discipline Policy states that "disorderly behavior that disrupts the academic environment violates the standard of fair access to the academic experience." Failure to adhere to health requirements during the COVID-19 emergency will be deemed as disruptive to the classroom and will be enforced following the Academic Conduct and Discipline procedures.

-The University of Mississippi has adopted a tiered disciplinary protocol for nonadherence to COVID-19 health requirements. This disciplinary protocol is maintained by the Office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct (<https://conflictresolution.olemiss.edu/>)

-Properly worn face coverings or face masks are required inside all University buildings. Face-to-face sessions will not proceed unless all present have properly worn face coverings or face masks. Students who have a diagnosed health concern which interferes with the wearing of face coverings or face masks may contact the Student Disability Services (SDS) Office to seek a University-approved accommodation. Please contact SDS at <https://sds.olemiss.edu/> for more information.)

-Students and faculty must complete the daily symptom checker before any face-to-face class meeting.

-Students and faculty must quarantine for 14 days if they have a positive COVID-19 test, possible virus exposure, or display any symptoms related to COVID-19.

-Students with COVID-19 should seek medical attention at the Student Health Center and contact their instructor to let them know that they are sick, quarantined, or have some other health-related absence.

-If students test positive for COVID-19 at any health care facility, they must contact the Student Health Center at 662-915-7274. (Faculty and staff should contact the Employees Health Service at 662-915-6550.) University Health Services will coordinate contact tracing to lessen the likelihood of spread.

-Upon entering the classroom, students and instructors should use provided cleaning supplies to wipe down the surfaces that they will touch during the class.

-Students are encouraged to visit the University's Keep Learning site (<https://olemiss.edu/keeplearning/>) to access information and resources related to COVID-19 support. The site provides links to University student services to facilitate and support learning.

-Students with diagnosed health concerns that may affect their compliance with COVID-19 health requirements should contact UM's Student Disability Services (SDS) Office (<https://sds.olemiss.edu>) to see if they are eligible for an SDS accommodation as soon as possible.

-The University must have accurate contact information, including cell phone numbers, to facilitate student communications and contact tracing. Students should check and update their University contact information (<https://olemiss.edu/mystudentprofile>).