

CLASS SYLLABUS

BIOL 3300 ECOLOGY FALL 2006

CLASS TIME: Lecture: MWF 10:00-10:50 a.m.
 Lab: Section A: M - 1:00 – 3:50 p.m.
 Section B: T – 9:00 – 11:50 p.m.
 Section C: T - 2:00 – 4:50 p.m.

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Colleen McDonough

OFFICE HOURS: WF 11:00-12:00, or by appt. (I am open all day Thursdays).

OFFICE: 2086 Bailey Science Center

PHONE: 333-5759 (main office), 333-5764 (my office)

EMAIL: cmcdonou@valdosta.edu

TEXT: “Ecology”, 6th Edition, by Charles J. Krebs

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The objectives of the course are to

--examine biological principles at the organismal, population, community, and ecosystem levels of organization.

-- cover evolutionary and physiological processes that affect abundance and distribution of organisms

-- examine intraspecific and interspecific relationships such as competition and predation.

-- describe properties of communities and ecosystems such as energy flow and nutrient cycles.

Throughout the course

-- quantitative models are used to identify important variables and

-- principles of conservation are incorporated throughout

Standards

VSU General Education Outcomes on webpage: (

<http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/VSUGeneralEducationOutcomes.shtml>) This course meets outcomes 3., 4., 5. and 7.

Department of Biology Educational Outcomes (Page 113 in 2009-2010 Undergraduate Catalog). This course meets outcomes 1., 2., and 5.

PREREQUISITES (must be completed prior to course): BIOL 2010, 2230, 2270, CHEM 1212 with a grade of C or better.

COREQUISITE (taken at the same semester or before the course): BIOL 3200 – genetics

If you do not have the pre- or co-requisites, then you need my consent to stay in the class. If there are seniors with the pre and co-requisites who need this course to graduate in December, then you may be asked to leave the course.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: You must attend all the laboratories of this course or not receive points from those labs. If you miss lab, it is equivalent to missing an entire week of class. You may attend another section the week you missed with my permission. If sick, you need a doctors excuse and see me as soon as possible after the missed lab (i.e., **not** the next week in lab).

I have no strict attendance policy for lecture. If you miss, you need to get the notes from someone who attended class (excluding myself). Everyone knows someone else's notes are a poor substitute for sitting in class yourself. Other people's notes are not equivalent to yours - when you hear the lectures in person and write the notes yourself.

GRADING POLICY: Your grade will be based on a total of 550 points; 400 will come from lecture tests, 100 from lab assignments, 50 from a formal lab report.

Course grade: Your course grade will be based on your total number of points from lecture, lab and lab reports. Grades will be distributed according to the following percentages:

A - 90%

B - 80%

C - 70%

D - 60%

F < 60%

Lecture tests: There will be 3 lecture tests and a final. I will average your TOP 3 test scores and multiply by 400. Example – if you have an 80% after 3 tests and do not take the final, your lecture scores will be $400 \times .80 = 320$. This will be added to your lab score and lab report grade. In doing this, the final is essentially optional. Students who have missed a lecture test grade for any reason must take the final. **STUDENTS WHO BOMB A TEST AND THEN HAVE TO MISS ANOTHER TEST FOR WHATEVER REASON WILL NOT BE ABLE TO TAKE A MAKE-UP TEST.** If you study hard for every test, this circumstance will not come up. The exams and the final will have a multiple choice and essay format. Questions will be based on information given during lecture and laboratory and found in the reading material. Any questions, problems or complaints about grading must be made within one week of receiving an assignment/test back. No grade changes will be made after that time.

Laboratory: Lab attendance is required. Roll will be taken within 5 minutes of the start of lab and any unexcused absences will be recorded and you will not receive credit for that laboratory exercise. You need to be on time especially for field labs when we will leave immediately at the start of lab. Not finding parking is not an acceptable excuse. Suitable field clothes are required for off-campus field labs and some labs we do around campus. **Acceptable clothes include pants (no shorts), socks, and closed shoes (no sandals). You may wish to bring a hat, insect repellent, and water.** Individuals not wearing appropriate field clothes will not be allowed on the field trips and will not receive credit for that laboratory exercise.

Some weeks during the semester I may lecture during part of the lab. Any material covered in lab at any time should be studied for the lecture tests. You will be either having written assignments or quizzes to assess your understanding of each of the laboratories performed. These assessment tools will account for the 100 points of the lab portion of the course.

Lab Report: A comprehensive formal lab report will be worth 50 points. A general handout explaining what information is required for a formal laboratory report will be given out during lab.

Late Assignment Policy: For every day an assignment is late, points equaling one full grade will be subtracted from the points received. For example, if a lab report is late one day, I will grade it and then subtract 5.0 points (10% of 50) from the total. Two days late will have 10 points subtracted, etc.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students requiring classroom accommodations or modifications to testing, such as more time, need to be documented with the Access Office for Students with Disabilities. These students should discuss needs with me at the beginning of the semester. Students not registered must contact the Access Office, Farber Hall, Phone; 245-2498. Website:

<http://www.valdosta.edu/access/>

FEDERAL PRIVACY ACT: It is illegal to release personal information about an individual to others. Therefore, I cannot give out your grades to anyone but yourself. I cannot give them out over phone or through email unless with written permission.

CLASS BEHAVIOR: Any student engaging in disruptive behavior will be asked to leave lecture or lab. They will forfeit the chance to hand in the work resulting from that laboratory.

CELL PHONE USE: Cell phones must be turned off during class and lab. Leaving lecture or lab to answer or call on your phone is disruptive to other students and will not be tolerated.

PLAGIARISM AND OTHER FORMS OF STEALING: Adhere to the policy listed on the Biology Department's website (<http://www.valdosta.edu/biology/>). See list of items under "FOR STUDENTS"). If caught cheating a student will be given a zero for the assignment or test and be reported to the dean of students. If caught a second time, they will fail the course. Note the paragraph stating that plagiarism will not be tolerated and the serious consequences. This is an issue of honesty and ethics. If you are so time stressed that you can't individually do the work required in this course, consider withdrawing rather than face the repercussions and failing the course.

If you use someone else's work to write up yours, then you are plagiarizing. If you allow someone to write up your work, then you are plagiarizing and cheating and will be punished. If you rewrite another person's work, then you are plagiarizing even though it is not word for word. **IT IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO WRITE UP LAB REPORTS OR ASSIGNMENTS TOGETHER BECAUSE YOU ARE LAB PARTNERS. YOU ARE PLAGIARIZING. THIS GOES FOR GRAPHS AND TABLES AS WELL AS FOR TEXT. Being someone's lab partner is not an excuse for similarity in style.** You may discuss the laboratories with your partners or others but you may not write together. Go home or to the library and write up your assignments on your own. **Do not let others look at your assignments.** Do not let others pressure you into showing them your assignments before class when due. Put them on my desk when entering the classroom.

If I write on your paper that your work is too close in content to Joe-Blow's work, then consider this a warning and the next time it happens both papers/assignments will get a zero.

If a student copies from another student's test or uses extra "test aids" during a test, he/she has stolen.

If a student allows someone to copy from his/her test, he/she has cheated and will be punished.

NO QUOTATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED IN THE ASSIGNMENTS AND FORMAL LAB REPORTS. YOU MUST PUT YOUR WORK IN CONTEXT. WHAT WORK HAS ALREADY BEEN PUBLISHED ON THE SUBJECT? THINK ABOUT STATEMENTS ABOUT PREVIOUS WORK AND JUSTIFY THAT STATEMENT WITH THE CITATIONS OF THE SOURCES.

If a student paraphrases another author's work without citing the source, then you are plagiarizing (i.e., stealing).

Everyone has an individual writing style. It is almost like a fingerprint. Therefore, it is very easy to pick out similarities in writing and thus, potential plagiarism. This is the same for graphic depictions of data and tables. I will not tolerate the communal sharing of work. This goes for work done in previous semesters. I have copies of previous work and will compare you work with past student's work.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Labor Day: September 7 – **NO CLASS**

Mid-Term: October 8 –Last day to drop with a Withdrawal Pass

Fall Break: October 19-20 – **NO CLASS**

Thanksgiving Break: November 25-27 – **NO CLASS**

Last Day of Classes: December 7

Final Exam: December 11th – FRIDAY- 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Lecture Test Dates

Sept 18th

Oct 26th

Dec 7th

Dec 11th – comprehensive test over entire course

WEEKLY LECTURE SCHEDULE - Tentative

Dates-Week of	Topics	Chapters
Aug 17	Introduction, evolutionary ecology	1, 2
Aug 24	evolutionary ecology, physiological ecology	2, 3, 4,
Aug 31	factors affecting distribution	5 -7
Sep 7	populations and catching up	8,
Sept 14	demographics, growth	9,
Sept 21	species interactions, competition	10,
Sept 28	predation, parasitism	11, 13
Oct 5	population regulation, conservation	14, 15, 17
Oct 12	catch up lecturing	
Oct 21	community ecology	18
Oct 26	Succession, biodiversity	18, 19
Nov 2	trophic levels	20
Nov 9	Disturbance, ecosystems	21,
Nov 16	Production	22, 23
Nov 23	Nutrient cycling	24
Nov 30	Catch up lecturing	

LABORATORY SCHEDULE- Due to the unpredictability of living things, this list may change.

Date	Activities
Aug 17-18	Lab meeting, start statistics and graphics
Aug 24-25	Statistics and Graphics – finish
Aug 31, Sep 1	Natural selection/Genetic Drift simulation
Sep 7	Labor Day Week – No lab
Sep 14-15	Finish and Set –up Population Growth
Sep 21-22	Population Density, Habitat utilization ** Field lab
Sept 28-29	Finish above and collect for Phenotypic Plasticity Lab
Oct 5-6	Finish plasticity lab
Oct 12-13	Life History strategy, survivorship curves
Oct 19, 20	FALL BREAK – NO LAB
Oct 26-27	Population growth – set up earlier
Nov 2-3	Intermediate Disturbance Lab ** Field Lab
Nov 9-10	Finish up
Nov 16-17	Measuring succession **Field Lab
Nov 23-24	Finish up
Nov 30-Dec 1	Bioremediation or Lecturing

A formal lab report will be due on one of the laboratories performed. There will be a handout given to explain what is required.

There will be opportunities this fall to catch armadillos for a food preference study. When those dates are finalized, I will ask for volunteers. We will be going to Tall Timbers Research Station near the GA/FL state line, off HWY 319. Usually takes the entire evening.