

Valdosta State University
Biology Department
BIOL 3250: Ecology & Evolution
Course Syllabus, Spring 2020

Instructor: Dr. Erin Grabarczyk

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Office Hours: M 8:30 – 9:30 AM, T 8:20 – 9:20 AM, or by appointment

Lecture: MW 2:00 – 3:15 PM, BSC 1024

Labs: M 10:00 AM – 12:50 PM, BSC 2073

T 2:00 – 4:50 PM, BSC 2073

W 9:00 – 11:50 AM, BSC 2073

Required text: Krebs C. Ecology (6th edition). Pearson.

Recommended text: Herron JC, Freeman S. Evolutionary Analysis. Pearson.

OR another general textbook on evolution:

Bergstrom CT. Evolution. Norton.

Futuyama DJ. Evolution. Sinauer Associates, Inc.

Hall BK. Evolution Principles and Processes. Jones and Barlett.

Ridley M, Evolution. Blackwell.

Course overview

BIOL 3250. Ecology and Evolution. 4 Hours.

Prerequisites: [BIOL 1107](#), [1107L](#), [BIOL 1108](#), [1108L](#), and [BIOL 3200](#).

An introduction to major topics in ecology and evolution, including population, community, and ecosystem ecology; Darwinian theory of evolution through natural selection; microevolution and macroevolution. Computer and field labs will provide exposure to both evolutionary theory and field ecology.

Standards

Education outcomes for BS Degree in Biology: 1, 2, & 5.

VSU General Education Outcomes: 3, 4, 5, & 7.

Class Policies

- **Classroom etiquette:** Respect your classmates and your instructor. Please be on time. Please turn off your cell phone. Do not talk while I am talking. If you have a question, raise your hand and ask me the question. If you are disrupting the class, I will ask you to leave. Do not use the internet in class unless the lab requires it. Do not start the labs until I have asked you to do so.

- **Ask questions:** If you have a question or don't understand something please let me know. I am more than willing to take as much time as necessary to help you understand a concept, but you have to let me know.
- **Assignments:** Your assignments can be emailed to me, turned into my mailbox in the biology office, or submitted on BlazeVIEW. If your assignment is turned in late, 10% will be deducted from your grade for every day past the deadline.
- **Email etiquette:** Please use your VSU account for e-mail communication. Include a relevant subject title, greeting, and closing. Refer to this website for additional tips on how to construct a professional e-mail: <http://www.netmanners.com/e-mail-etiquette-tips/>
- **Lab completion:** You must complete every lab in full. If you leave early, your homework assignment will not be accepted the following week.
- **Cheating:** You are responsible for making yourself aware of and understanding the policies and procedures in the Undergraduate Catalogs that pertain to Academic Honesty. These policies include cheating, fabrication, falsification and forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity and computer misuse. [The policies can be found at <http://valdosta.edu> under Student Code of Conduct.] If there is reason to believe you have been involved in academic dishonesty, you will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. You will be given the opportunity to review the charge(s). If you believe you are not responsible, you will have the opportunity for a hearing. **You should consult with me if you are uncertain about an issue of academic honesty prior to the submission of an assignment or test.** All forms of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to collusion, fabrication, cheating and plagiarism are worthy of punishment according to the policy set forth by Valdosta State University. This includes doing your own work on lab assignments. While you are allowed to brainstorm with each other, it is expected that your answers are your own. **I will not tolerate any form of cheating.**
- **Field trip attire:** Throughout semester we will be collecting data and running experiments outside. On days we are outside, please wear walking shoes and dress for the weather. **Acceptable clothes include pants, socks, and comfortable walking shoes. You may wish to bring a hat, insect repellent, drinking water, and wear sunscreen.**

Students with disabilities: Students requiring classroom or testing accommodations because of documented disabilities should discuss their needs with the instructor at the beginning of the semester. If you need accommodations for an exam, you must communicate this information with me at least 1 week before the exam. Students not registered must contact the Access Office, Farber Hall, Phone; 245-2498. Website: <http://www.valdosta.edu/access/>

Title IX Statement: Valdosta State University (VSU) is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive work and learning environment free from discrimination and harassment. VSU is dedicated to creating an environment where all campus community members feel valued, respected, and included. Valdosta State University prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex (including sexual harassment and sexual violence), sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status, in the University's programs and activities as required by applicable laws and regulations such as Title

IX. The individual designated with responsibility for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning nondiscrimination policies is the University's Title IX Coordinator: the Director of the Office of Social Equity, titleix@valdosta.edu, 1208 N. Patterson St., Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia 31698, 229-333-5463.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Students are expected to attend the lab session they are registered in. There may be times at which you cannot make your lab and you may wish to attend another lab section. This is possible to do **ONCE** per semester, but there are **strict** guidelines for attending a different lab section. If you do not follow these steps, I have the right to deny you access to the lab. You cannot just show up at any lab and expect to attend it. Labs can only be made up during the **same** week that they are held and switches can **only** take place on weeks when there is **not a scheduled group activity**.

To attend a different lab section than the one in which you are registered, you must:

1. Check the schedule to make sure there will be no in-class group projects.
2. Contact your instructor (egrabarczyk@valdosta.edu) **in advance** (at least 24 hours) of the lab you will be missing and give the day and time of the other lab you wish to attend.
3. Don't assume that you will be able to attend the lab section you requested. I must balance the number of students attending each lab and you will be denied on weeks with scheduled group activities.

Grading Scale:

Letter	%	Points
A	90-100	693-770
B	80-89	616-692
C	70-79	539-615
D	60-69	462-538
F	<60	<461

Assessments:

3 Exams (100 points each)
Final exam (150 points)
In-lecture participation (10 x 5 pts = 50 points)
Homework assignments (6 x 20 points = 120 points)
Lab Report (50 points)
Group presentation (25 points)
Reflection essay (25 points)
Poster presentation (50 points)

Exam Dates:

1. Wednesday, Feb. 12th
2. Wednesday, Mar. 11th
3. Wednesday, Apr. 8th
4. Final Exam: Tuesday, May 5th 2:45 – 4:45 PM

Tentative Lab Schedule*:

Week of	Lab number	Lab topic
Jan 13	1	Introduction to Data Science & PRJA
Jan 20	-	No labs – MLK day
Jan 27	2	Natural Selection
Feb 3	3	Field Ecology I (outside!)
Feb 10	4	Field Ecology II – data management
Feb 17	5	Phylogenetic inference
Feb 24	6	Adaptive radiation
Mar 2	7	Demography (outside!)
Mar 9	8	Climate Change & Carbon Sequestration I – group activity (outside!)
Mar 16	-	No labs – Spring break
Mar 23	9	Climate Change & Carbon Sequestration II – group activity
Mar 30	10	De-extinction I – group activity
Apr 6	11	Group Presentations
Apr 13	12	De-extinction II – group activity
Apr 20	13	Research Project Discussion – group activity
Apr 27	-	No labs

***Weather permitting. An updated lab schedule will be posted on the course BlazeView page if we need to re-arrange weekly topics.**