

Valdosta State University
Department of Biology
BIOL 3250: Ecology & Evolution
Course Syllabus, Fall 2022

Instructor: Dr. Erin Grabarczyk

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Office drop-in hours: Wed 2– 3 PM, Thurs 12:30– 1:30 PM, or by appointment

Lecture: TR 2– 3:15 PM, BSC

Lab: W 11– 1:50 PM, BSC 2073

Required text: Ecology, Evolution, Applications, Integrations, 2nd Edition by David Krohne, Oxford University Press

AND any general textbook on evolution:

Herron JC, Freeman S. Evolutionary Analysis. Pearson.

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:** Please be on time. Please turn off your cell phone. If you are disrupting the class, I will ask you to leave. Do not use the internet in class unless the lab requires it. Be respectful of yourself, your classmates, and your instructor.
- **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.
- **Late work:** Once during the semester you may turn in late work for full credit. I will give you 48 hours to submit your work, no questions asked. Your assignment needs to be emailed to me, turned into my mailbox in the biology office, or submitted on BlazeVIEW. After your one late work turn-in, late assignments will not be accepted.
- **Email:** Use your VSU account for e-mail communication.

- **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 your instructor 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 with disabilities who are experiencing barriers in this course may contact the Access Office for assistance in determining and implementing reasonable accommodations. The Access Office is located in University Center Room 4136 Entrance 5. The phone numbers are 229-245-2498 (V), 229-375-5871. For more information, please visit [VSU's Access Office](#) or email: access@valdosta.edu

Title IX Statement: Valdosta State University (VSU) upholds all applicable laws and policies regarding discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment and pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, religion, age, veteran status, political affiliation, or disability. The University prohibits specific forms of behavior that violate Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities that receive federal funding. VSU considers sex discrimination in any form to be a serious offense. Title IX refers to all forms of sex discrimination committed against others, including but not limited to: sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, and sexual violence by other employees, students or third parties and gender inequity or unfair treatment based on an individual's sex/gender. The designated Title IX Coordinator for VSU is Mr. Darius Thomas. To view the full policy or to report an incident visit: <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/title-ix/>

Grading Scale:

Letter	%	Points
A	90-100	756-840
B	80-89	672-755
C	70-79	588-671
D	60-69	504-587
F	<60	<503

Assessments:

3 Exams (100 points each)
 Final exam (150 points)
 In-lecture participation (10 x 5 pts = 50 points)
 Homework assignments (140 points)
 Environmental Report (50 points)
 Grant proposal (100 points)
 Presentation (50 points)

Exam Dates:

1. Thursday, Sept. 8th
2. Thursday, Oct. 6th
3. Thursday, Nov. 3rd
4. Final Exam: Wednesday, Dec. 7th 2:45 – 4:45 PM.

Tentative Lab Schedule*

Date	Lab number	Lab topic
Aug 17	1	Phenology & Intro to Data Science
Aug 24	2	Grand Bay – outside!
Aug 31	3	Lake Louise – outside!
Sept 7	4	Labor Day - Project work day
Sept 14	5	Phylogenetic inference
Sept 21	6	Adaptive radiation
Sept 28	7	Project work day
Oct 5	8	Demography – outside!
Oct 12	-	No labs – Fall break
Oct 19	9	Field Ecology – outside!
Oct 26	10	Climate change
Nov 2	11	Project work day
Nov 9	12	De-extinction
Nov 16	13	TBD – potentially outside!
Nov 23	-	No labs – Thanksgiving
Nov 30	14	Campus mist netting – outside!

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