

CLASS SYLLABUS BIOL 3250 ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION FALL 2013

CLASS TIME: Lecture: MW 11:00-11:50 p.m.
Lab Section D: T - 9:00 – 11:50 a.m.
Lab Section E: T - 2:00 – 4:50 p.m.
Lab Section F: W - 1:00 – 3:50 p.m.

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Colleen McDonough
OFFICE HOURS: M 9:30-10:30 a.m., R 1:30-2:30 p.m. or by appt.
OFFICE: 2086 Bailey Science Center
PHONE: 333-5759 (main office), 333-5764 (my office)
EMAIL: cmcdonou@valdosta.edu

TEXTS: 1) “Ecology”, 6th Edition, by Charles Krebs
Recommended: any introductory evolution text for background information. Most texts cover the same concepts. Reading the material from someone else might aid in understanding these. Editions that are recent but not current are usually inexpensive.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The objectives of the course are to
--cover evolutionary processes, modes of speciation, and mechanisms of micro- and macroevolution.
--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.
-- 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: This course meets outcomes 1., 2. and 5.

PREREQUISITES (must be completed prior to course): BIOL 1107, 1108, and 3200 with grades of ‘C’ or better.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Science is an act of doing. Therefore, you cannot get laboratory grades for not being present. You must attend all the laboratories of this course to earn points from those labs. That means that if you missed lab, you cannot hand in any assignment associated with that lab. If you miss lab, it is equivalent to missing an entire week of class. There are 3 sections taught. With a valid excuse you may attend another section. In the past people have abused this by routinely coming to another section from the one they signed up for. This is not OK. If sick, you need a doctor’s excuse and you must see me as soon as possible after the missed lab. This does NOT mean talking to me at the next laboratory period.

GRADING POLICY: Your grade will be based on a total of 535 points; 400 will come from lecture tests, 135 from lab assignments.

Course grade: Grades will be distributed according to the following percentages:

A > 90% (>468 points)

B - 80% (416-467)

C - 70% (364-415)

D - 60% (312-363)

F < 60% (<312)

Lecture tests: There will be 4 lecture tests and a final. I will average your scores, get a percentage and multiply by 400. Example – if you have an 80% test average, your lecture score will be 320 ($400 \times .80 = 320$).

Final: Because the final is the fifth test, if you are happy with your average after the 4 lecture tests, you do not have to take the final. If you do worse on the final than the regular tests, the final test grade will not count because it will be your lowest score (and therefore dropped). Students who have missed a 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, short answer and essay format. Questions will be based on information given during lecture and laboratory and reading material. Any questions, problems or complaints about grading must be made within one week of receiving an assignment/test back. No grade changes on assignments and test will be made after that time.

LABORATORY: Roll will be taken at the start of lab. Anyone absent will be noted.

The number of times the students is present **at roll** will be used as one assignment at the end of the course. In past semesters I have had people arriving to lab 30 minutes late. This is unacceptable. It will be my decision whether you need to leave and make up the lab later. (If you need to leave, you will still not receive the attendance point but you will be able to hand in work for that lab). Bottom line: You need to arrive to lab on time.

This is especially true for field labs when we will leave almost immediately or we meet on campus somewhere at the start of lab. Not finding parking is not an acceptable excuse.

--**Field labs** - where we are moving through brush (this may occur on or off campus):

Suitable field clothes are required. **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 are endangering themselves (Students in the past have gotten into thorns, contracted poison ivy, and had lots of red bug bites). Therefore, they will not be allowed on the field trips or receive credit for that laboratory exercise.

--**Participation** will be noted: All individuals must participate fully in the labs every week. If I judge that you are lacking in participation by not collecting or analyzing data, by letting lab partners do all the work, by balking at doing any of the work – I will be noting any problems and will take this into consideration at the end of the course.

--**Lab lectures:** Any material covered during lab at any time should be studied for the lecture tests.

--**Lab assignments: (135 pts)** You will be having written assignments or quizzes to assess your understanding of the laboratories performed. These assessment tools will count for the 135 points of the lab portion of the course. A lab report will be included in these points.

--**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 assignment is late one day, I will grade it and then subtract 10% of the total from the score. Two days late will have 20% 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 / COMPUTER USE: Cell phones should be turned off during class and lab. Laptop computers should be used for note taking only. I have peer-reviewed enough faculty from the back of the room to know that students are looking at facebook, are on-line shopping and even watching movies, etc. I do not take roll in lecture so, therefore, you can do these computer activities outside the classroom. These activities within the classroom are disruptive to others (especially those sitting behind) and affect the learning environment. I reserve the right to ask you to leave if **you are doing anything that distract me and/or others during lecture. This might include texting, surfing, talking, or sleeping.**

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 has 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 cheated. If a student allows someone to copy from his/her test, he/she has cheated and will be punished. If a student paraphrases another author's work without citing the source, then they 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.

By taking this course, you agree that all required course work may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to software designed to identify plagiarism such as SafeAssign.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Labor Day: Sept 2 - NO CLASS

Mid-Term: Thursday - Oct 3 – Last day to drop and still get a W/P

Thanksgiving : Nov 25-29 - NO CLASS

Last day: Monday - Dec 2

Final Exam: Dec 6: 12:30-2:30 p.m. same room

WEEKLY LECTURE SCHEDULE – Tentative

I will give out the chapters in the books when we start the sections. For evolution sections, I will give out topics covered to look up in general evolution texts.

Week	Topics
1	Introduction
2	nature of variation
3	mechanisms of evolution
4	speciation
5	micro and macroevolution
6	physiological ecology
7	distribution
8	population growth
9	species interactions, competition
10	predation
11	community ecology
12	Succession, biodiversity
13	succession, biodiversity
14	trophic levels, primary and secondary production
15	nutrient cycling

TEST DATES:

Test 1: Sept 9

Test 2: Oct 2

Test 3: Oct 30

Test 4: Dec 2

Final: Friday December 6, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

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

Week	
1 Aug 12	No lab this week for my sections, Dr. Anderson's labs will meet
2 Aug 19	Natural selection/ Genetic Drift simulation: Outside on campus
3 Aug 26	finish up and data analyses Natural selection and genetic drift
4 Sep 2	Phenotypic Plasticity Lab: outside on campus for part
5 Sep 9	Cladograms
6 Sept 16	Habitat utilization: Field lab
7 Sept 23	Population Density/Distribution: Field lab
8 Sept 30	Write up for density and utilization
9 Oct 7	Survivorship curves
10 Oct 14	Population Growth
11 Oct 21	TBA
12 Oct 28	Intermediate Disturbance Lab: Field Lab
13 Nov 4	work up data
14 Nov 11	Measuring succession: Field Lab
15 Nov 18	Finish up

