Course Philosophy and Goals. This course will provide a novel and fun way of learning about how and why life is distributed across the surface of the Earth. We will learn about biodiversity through a combination of reading, problem solving, writing and discussion. My goal is that by the end of the course, all students will be able to digest and articulate the salient points of a scientific article on biodiversity. Equipped with these skills, students will be adept at making informed decisions relevant to science policy. My approach throughout the course will be to teach, rather than lecture. Thus, students will be expected to participate in the learning process during class sessions. Adjustments will be made to the following outline based on the needs of the class as we progress.

Readings. The primary text for the course is:

A significant portion of the course will be centered on reading journal articles relevant to the topics covered in the text. These readings will be uploaded onto blackboard one week prior to the class lecture when we will discuss the articles.

Homework. Approximately six homework assignments will be due in this course. Assignments are due at the beginning of class. For several of the homework assignments you will be asked to answer questions about the required journal article reading for that day. In addition to these six homework assignments, there will be a number of classes where you will be asked ‘bonus’ questions about the required journal article reading at the beginning of class (denoted by * in the syllabus).

Exams. There will be one in class midterm 2.1.2010 and one take home final posted 3.3.2010 (due 3.9.2010).
**Team teaching.** All students will be required to team-teach and lead a class discussion on one journal article. Instructors Green and Burns will suggest an article for each team two weeks prior to the day your team is scheduled to lead a class discussion. We will work closely with and coach each student team. One week prior to your scheduled team teaching, you will go through a trial run with Professor Green. Details on student team teaching will be posted on the course blackboard site.

**Grade determination.** Your final grade will be based on ¼ homework, ¼ team teaching, ¼ midterm and ¼ final exam.

**Cell phones.** All portable electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class.

**Academic Conduct.** Academic integrity is the foundation of an academic community and without it none of the educational or research goals of the university can be achieved. All members of the university community are responsible for its academic integrity. Existing policies forbid cheating on examinations, plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Please refamiliarize yourself with the definitions of cheating and plagiarism (see the “about cheating” section at [http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/programs/student_judi_affairs](http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/programs/student_judi_affairs)). If you have doubts or questions about acceptable conduct in any situation, I encourage you to discuss the situation with me in advance. University rules on academic integrity will be strictly enforced.