

Biology 130 – Introduction to Ecology Fall, 2011

Instructors	Role	Office*	Office Hours	e-mail
Dr. Barbara Wilson	Instructor	65 Klamath	2:30-3:30, W**	barbaraw@uoregon.edu
Christie Lowell	GTF	360 Onyx	3:00-4:00 W	clowell@uoregon.edu
Lucas Nebert	GTF	360 Onyx		lnebert@uoregon.edu
Chelsey Iida	GTF	360 Onyx	12:00-1:00	ciida@uoregon.edu
Shannon McCormick	Tutor	25 Klamath		shannonm@uoregon.edu

* Teaching office; for meeting at other times, make arrangements by e-mail

** You're welcome to visit any time you can find me. I'll be on campus Monday and Wednesday afternoons, and can be available at other times by appointment.

Course Goals

This course introduces fundamentals of ecology to those not majoring in biology. We will cover how populations of each species can change, interactions among species, interactions between species and their non-living environment, and resulting threats to existing biodiversity. We also discuss how humans are changing relationships between humans, non-humans, and our environment, and some of the consequences of those changes. Along the way, we practice the process of science, of stating ideas clearly and testing them.

Course Format

Lectures: Monday and Wednesday, 4:00-5:20 p.m., in 123 Pacific. You are *very strongly encouraged* to attend. You will gain a better understanding of class material and be better prepared for exams by actively participating in classes.

Discussions: Friday, 9, 10, 11, 12, 1, 2, 3, and 4, in 21 Klamath. In discussion sections, certain ideas presented in lecture are explored in greater detail. In preparation for two discussions, you will need to print out *SimUText* workbooks (see course schedule). Attendance is mandatory and will form part of your final grade. Please attend only the discussion section for which you are registered.

Readings / text book / lab workbook

This class has required readings. Your learning in lecture periods will go more smoothly if you do the readings before the relevant lecture.

1. You will need to purchase two (or three) *SimUText* chapters, approximately \$10 each.
2. You will need to purchase two *SimUText* labs, approximately \$5 each.
3. Additional required readings will be made available through Blackboard.

If you want a more comprehensive textbook, most recent ecology texts will do well. Miller's *Essentials of Ecology*, 4th or 5th edition is useful. I will try to put a copy on reserve in the library.



Hermit crab in wellk shell with sea anemone
(by R. Cadwalladar Smith)

Blackboard

All course documents will be posted on the blackboard course website. This includes lecture notes, problem sets, required readings, information on the course project, links to the on-line store to purchase *SimUText* chapters and labs, and announcements. I recommend checking Blackboard frequently.

Grades and Tests

Exams. There will be two exams, a midterm and a comprehensive final exam. Exams will cover material from lecture, discussion, and assigned readings. Exam format may include multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and short essay questions. Exams will test both memory of ideas presented in class and the ability to apply those ideas to new situations. **Exams cannot be made up except in the case of a medical or family emergency.** Rescheduling the final exam is allowed **only** if you have more than three final exams on the same day.

Course project. Students will work in groups to create and present a poster on a topic relevant to ecology. The poster will be presented in discussion groups, weeks 6 and 7. This project may cost about \$10-15/person.

Problem sets. Problem sets may be assigned. I plan that they will be made available on Blackboard a week before they are due. They must be turned in at the beginning of the appropriate discussion sections, and late problem sets will not be accepted. Work with classmates on the problems if you wish, but each person must turn in his or her own work. If you have questions about the problem sets, discuss them with one of the instructors during office hours.

Keep every graded paper from this class until after you receive your final grade in December. I will issue reports of the grades I have recorded twice during the term, once after the final exam and once before the final exam, so you can be sure all recorded grades are accurate.

Clickers. Each student must buy an iClicker and register it. Details will be available on Blackboard. Bring the clicker to each lecture.

Discussion section activities. Your discussion score each week will be based on attendance, participation, and completion of exercises assigned.

Extra credit. There is no such thing. Absolutely, positively no extra credit assignment.

Approximate impacts different parts of the class will have on your final grade:

Discussion	15%
Clickers	5%
Poster Project	17%
Midterm	25%
Homework	8%
Final	30%

All of these percentages are subject to change.

Tentative standards for grades, expressed as percentages of points available, modified by weights recorded in the table above:

A = 90%, B = 80%, C = 70%, D = 60%, F = < 60%

Breaks between grades may be changed at the end of class, once all grades have been recorded and the distribution of point has been evaluated.

No incompletes will be given except in cases of extended illness or other extended emergency, in discussion with the Disability Services office.

Students with disabilities

I want all of my students to learn the class material, so I am happy to work with students in cooperation with the office of Disability Services (164 Oregon Hall, telephone 346-1155, e-mail disabsrv@uoregon.edu) to remove barriers to full participation.

Professional conduct

Come to class on time. Refrain from engaging in activities that distract other students, or me. Do not pack up belongings before class ends is disruptive to students and to me, so wait until I have finished lecturing before starting to leave. Do not talk with other students while someone else (instructor or classmate) is talking.

Most students here perform their class work with integrity and honor. Academic misconduct is unfair to the rest of the students. The University Student Conduct Code defines academic misconduct

(<http://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/AcademicMisconduct/tabid/248/Default.aspx>). Sometimes it can be hard to figure out the differences between plagiarism and legitimate of other people's work. This website provides some guidelines:

<http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/>.

Penalties for academic dishonesty may vary from a reduced final grade to failure in the class.

If you find yourself having troubles that interfere with your performance in class, please talk to one of the instructors as early in the term as possible. Personal crises do happen. We will try to refer you to someone to help or make special arrangements if the need is real and if you have done your best to deal with the situation in a timely manner.



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Important dates

September 26: first day of class

October 5: last day to change to or from audit status

December 24: Midterm exam

November 4-11: course project due

November 13: last day to change to or from graded or pass/no pass grading

November 24-25: Thanksgiving holiday

December 5: Final exam, Monday, 3:15-5:15.

I hope you will stay in this class for the entire term. If complications in your life make it necessary to withdraw, consult the Academic Calendar to see what your deadlines are (http://registrar.uoregon.edu/calendars/academic?field_schedule=Fall+2011).

Biology 130, tentative schedule

Week	Date	Lectures	Discussions
1	9/26 9/28	Introduction to Ecology Intro / Oregon	9/30 – bring articles on ecology / environmentalism to share.
2	10/3 10/5	Population Ecology – growth without resource limits Population Ecology – with resource limits	10/7 Describing populations. (Dress for weather.)
3	10/10 10/12	Population Ecology – humans Evolution and Natural Selection	10/14 SimUText lab: Isle Royale – purchase and print workbook
4	10/17 10/19	Evolution exercise Community Ecology – species interactions	10/21 Review for midterm exam Problem #1 set due
5	10/24 10/26	Midterm exam Return exams / Community Ecology	10/28 Film: The Silent Invasion
6	10/31 11/2	Community Ecology – species interactions Community ecology - succession	11/4 Course project: poster session I
7	11/7 11/9	Biodiversity conservation Biodiversity conservation	11/11 Course project: poster session II Problem set #2 due
8	11/14 11/16	Energy in ecosystems Energy in ecosystems	11/18 SimUText on Nutrient Pollution. Purchase and print workbook
9	11/21 11/23	Ecosystems – nutrient cycling Ecosystems – nutrient cycling	THANKSGIVING VACATION
10	11/28 11/30	Chemicals in ecosystems Summary of course	12/2 Review for final exam
Finals	12/5	Final exam 3:15-5:15 p.m.	

