

COURSE SYLLABUS
M/W/F 12.00 pm – 12.50 pm
221 McKenzie

Instructor: Dr. Melissa Scherr mscherr@uoregon.edu 65 Klamath
Office Hours: T/R 12-1pm or by appointment

TA: Maya Goklany mayag@uoregon.edu
Office Hours: Wed 10-11am

TEXT: *Ecology*, M.L. Cain, W. D. Bowman, S. D. Hacker 2008
 Available at the bookstore, several copies on reserve at the library

*You will also need loose-leaf paper or a notebook with tear-out pages for class. You will be turning in work during lectures. I recommend using a single binder to keep materials for this course together and easily accessible.

Course Objective:

Gain an understanding of both the biotic and abiotic factors which influence ecosystem and organismal structure, including the distribution and composition of organism populations at a variety of scale. In order to reach this objective, you will be expected to:

- Complete reading assignments and problems outside of class (3:1)
- Participate and contribute to discussion sessions in class
- Understand scientific publication material and integrate it with basic ecological themes discussed in class
- Attend field days (during lecture time) and one field trip

** There is no recitation or lab scheduled for this course—as such, it is important that you attend lecture and participate in discussion sessions in class, as well as field trips. It is also important that if you feel you are having a difficult time understanding materials, you get in touch with either the instructor or TA for help.

Grading

This is a four-credit course. Expect the work requirement to reflect the credit you are receiving. Final grades will be assigned as follows:

REQUIREMENT	POINTS
In-Class Discussion	100
Chapter Review Questions	100
Field Trip	70
Midterm 1	100
Midterm 2	100
Final Exam	100
Term Paper	80
TOTAL POSSIBLE	650

In-Class Discussions

Your chance to discuss lecture material will come during class times. I will often ask you to work with the people around you to formulate solutions to problems or answer questions about subject matter. Once a week I will require that you turn in work so that I can keep my finger on the pulse of how well the class is following the material. These will be due at the end of class and cannot be made up.

Chapter Review Questions

Complete the Review Questions at the end of each chapter (there are only 3 or four per chapter). Keep them with your class notes and bring them to class; once a week I will ask that you take 5 minutes at the beginning of that class to copy your answer for one or two of the questions from the required reading and turn them in. This will help me gauge understanding of the reading material, and let me know if we need to revisit important ideas. This will also help you to know what I think is important for you to know for potential testing questions.

Field Trip

Because of the size of the class, we will divide in half for the field trip. I will provide a sign-up sheet for dates, if you don't have a conflict with either day please check the list and make an effort to keep the numbers even. With options to choose the date, you should not have a reason to miss the field trip. If you miss the field trip, you will be provided with a practical exercise to complete on your own to take the place of field trip lessons and material. The difficulty of the practical exercise will reflect the point value assigned to the field trip. Expect to need a weekend to complete it.

Exams

Midterms and final will cover reading material, chapter review questions and material covered in lecture. If you attend class, keep up with the reading and do the problems, you should not have a problem. Exams will not be cumulative, though there are recurring themes throughout the course that will remain important between exams.

I do not "curve" test results. Missing an exam is not permitted without written documentation of extraneous circumstances. On exam days, please bring your UO ID card to confirm your identity when turning in your exam.

Term Paper

You may select an Ecology topic of your choice from the material covered in which to delve more deeply for either a term paper OR a mock project grant proposal. Acceptable topic examples: "Impact of invasive fish species on native Oregon Chub and management response"; "Insect resistance to pesticides and the impact of GMO seed crops". You will be expected to explain the underlying ecological processes at work as they relate to your topic (for the examples above: (1) aquatic ecology, life history strategies, competition; and (2) evolutionary ecology, life history strategy, population dynamics, etc). Once your topic is approved, you will assemble an annotated bibliography containing at least 5 academic references. The final paper synthesizing your ecological knowledge/ project proposal is due the last day of class. Dates and times to turn in each section are provided on the schedule below.

Academic Honesty

Academic integrity requires that all academic work be wholly the product of an identified individual or individuals. Collaboration is only acceptable when it is explicitly acknowledged. Cheating and/or plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated and will result in failure for the course and university disciplinary action.

Lecture Schedule

DATE	Lecture Topic	Reading Chapters
26-Sep	What is Ecology?	1
28-Sep	Climate pressure and similarity of life forms	2
30-Sep	Terrestrial Ecology	3
3-Oct	Aquatic Ecology	3
5-Oct	Physiological Ecology – Temperature	4
7-Oct	Physiological Ecology – Moisture	4
10-Oct	Energy and Nutrient Flow	5
12-Oct	Evolutionary Ecology	6
14-Oct	Life History Strategies	7
17-Oct	MIDTERM 1	
19-Oct	Lichen Ecology – Gravestones	
21-Oct	Organismal populations	8 & 9
22-Oct	FIELD TRIP OPTION 1	8.00am to 4pm
24-Oct	Population Dynamics	10
26-Oct	Competition	11
28-Oct	Predation	12
29-Oct	FIELD TRIP OPTION 2	8.00am to 4pm
31-Oct	Herbivory	12
2-Nov	Parasitism/Disease	13
4-Nov	Mutualism/Commensalism Term Paper Topics Due – 5 pm (10 pts)	14
7-Nov	Community Ecology	15
9-Nov	Succession	16
11-Nov	MIDTERM 2	
14-Nov	Biogeography	17
16-Nov	Diversity of organisms	18
18-Nov	Production and Energy Flow Annotated Bibliography Due – 5 pm (20 pts)	19 & 20
21-Nov	Nutrient Supply and Nutrient Cycling	21
23-Nov	Conservation Ecology	22
25-Nov	NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	
28-Nov	Landscape Ecology	23
30-Nov	The Changing Environment I	24
2-Dec	The Changing Environment II Term Paper Due – 5 pm (50 pts)	24
9-Dec	10.15 am FINAL EXAMINATION	