

CLASS SYLLABUS

BIOL 3300 ECOLOGY Spring 2011

CLASS TIME:           Lecture: MWF 10:00-10:50 a.m.  
                          Lab: Section A: R 9:30 a.m. 12:20 p.m.  
                              Section B: R 1:00 3:50 p.m.  
                              Section C: F - 12:00 2:50 p.m.

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Colleen McDonough  
OFFICE HOURS: M 11:00-12:00, T 10 11 a.m. or by appt.  
OFFICE: 2086 Bailey Science Center  
PHONE: 333-5759 (main office), 333-5764 (my office)  
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<sup>th</sup> Edition, by Charles J. Krebs

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The objectives of the course are to  
--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

I have no strict attendance policy for lecture. If you miss, you need to get the notes from  
are a poor substitute for sitting in class yourself. They will not be equivalent to hearing and writing the material yourself. Periodically, I will take attendance although it will not be counted against you if you do not attend lecture.

**GRADING POLICY:** Your grade will be based on a total of 550 points; 400 will come from lecture tests, 100 from lab assignments, 50 from a formal lab report.

Course grade: Your course grade will be based on your total number of points from lecture, lab and the lab report. Grades will be distributed according to the following percentages:

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

Lecture tests: There will be 3 lecture tests and a final. I will average your 3 HIGHEST scores, get a percentage and multiply by 400. Example if you have an 80% after 3 tests and do not take the final, your lecture score will be 320 ( $400 \times .80 = 320$ ). If you are happy with your lecture score after the 3 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. 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 will be made after that time.

Laboratory: Lab attendance is required. Roll will be taken within 5 minutes of the start of lab and any unexcused absences will be recorded and you will not receive credit for that laboratory exercise. You need to be on time especially for field labs when we will leave immediately at the start of lab. Not finding parking is not an acceptable excuse. Suitable field clothes are required for off-campus field labs and some labs we do around campus. **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 will not be allowed on the field trips and will not receive credit for that laboratory exercise. Some weeks during the semester I may lecture during part of the lab. Any material covered in lab at any time should be studied for the lecture tests. You will be either having written assignments or quizzes to assess your understanding of the laboratories conducted. These assessment tools will count for the 100 points of the lab portion of the course.

Lab Report: A comprehensive formal lab report will be worth 50 points. A general handout explaining what information is required for a formal laboratory report will be given out during lab.

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 report is late one day, I will grade it and then subtract 5.0 points (10% of 50) from the total. Two days late will have 10 points 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 USE:** Cell phones must be turned OFF during class and lab. If there is an emergency you may leave the class and answer the phone. Because exiting and entering the classroom may be disruptive, if it becomes a problem it will not be allowed. **TEXTING IS DISRUPTIVE TO ME.** How shall we handle this problem?

**PLAGARISM AND OTHER FORMS OF STEALING:** Adhere to the policy listed on \_\_\_\_\_ at document,

**Therefore, it is extremely important that any written work submitted represents a** \_\_\_\_\_  
displayed in sentences completely constructed by the  
student

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 the serious consequences. This is an issue of honesty and ethics. If you are so ti  
individually do the work required in this course, consider withdrawing rather than face the repercussions and failing the course.

**If you allow  
someone to write up your work, then you are plagiarizing and cheating and also will  
be punished**

during a test, he/she has cheated. If a student allows someone to copy from his/her test,

without citing the source, then you 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

LABORATORY SCHEDULE- Due to the unpredictability of living things, this list always changes.

Date

Jan 13-14	Lab meeting, start statistics and graphics on campus
Jan 20-21	Statistics and Graphics finish on campus
Jan 27-28	Natural selection/Genetic Drift simulation
Feb 3-4	Population Density and Distribution ** Field Lab
Feb 10-11	Finish and Set up Population Growth
Feb 17-18	Habitat Utilization ** Field Lab
Feb 24-25	Finish Habitat Utilization
Mar 3-4	Phenotypic Plasticity Lab
Mar 10-11	Life History Strategies, survivorship curves
Mar 14-18	SPRING BREAK NO LAB
Mar 24-25	Population growth set up earlier
Mar 31-Apr 1	Intermediate Disturbance Lab ** Field Lab
April 7-8	Finish up
April 14-15	Measuring Succession **Field Lab
April 21-22	Finish up
April 28-29	Lecture catch up

A formal lab report will be due on one of the laboratories performed. There will be a handout given to explain what is required.