

Dr. Leslie S. Jones  
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1096 Bailey Science Center

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11:00-12:00 or By Appointment. Please feel free to call the office or use email to schedule a convenient time. Anytime I am in my office, you are welcome to stop in to ask quick questions.

Learning Management System - Your VSU Account. This will be used for all class communication, listing your assignments, and access to various resources. Be sure to check it for details of where the Tuesday lab will be and if it is not posted by Sunday – remind me in my VSU email.

Course Management System - McGraw Hill Connect Version of \_\_\_\_\_ by Manuel Molles (7<sup>th</sup> Ed). This is a complete electronic version of the book and a versatile software product that will be the basis for most of your assignments. Log into Connect and there will be instructions on how to purchase the product. To save money, you will purchase this directly from the publisher at <http://connect.mheducation.com/class/l-jones-fall-2017-3> \$85.00. After you purchase the product, you can purchase a loose-leaf printed version for -\$25.00 directly from the publisher.



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Aug 14 - Levels of Organization  
16 - Patterns in Nature

Alphabetical Arrangements



Members of the class are expected to maintain high standards of integrity. This course will use the VSU Handbook Code of Ethics as a basic standard of behavior, and everyone in the class is required to read the Biology Department Plagiarism Policy sign a statement verifying that these guidelines are understood. Evidence of dishonest conduct or cheating will result in no credit for the assignment and depending on the case, a grade of "F" for the course. Never copy text from a book or website and always cite sources unless it is very general or commonly known scientific information. Do not share your work with other students because both people will be held responsible. When students work together on projects or assignments, each person is responsible for submitting completely individual, distinctly different products. Do not expect lenience for claims that on the grounds of not knowing better. You will be reported to the Dean of Students and employers such as school systems do call that office at VSU to check on whether you have a record of infractions.

LearnSmart	10%
Lab Notebook Grade - Formative & Summative Evaluations	10%
Class Participation, (Oral Reports) & Blazeview Assignments	10%
Attendance	10%
Midterms (Each Test = 10%)	40%
Final Exam	20%

This introductory ecology textbook is unique because there are reading objectives throughout the chapters to focus attention on important content. Reading for science is very different from other types of reading. Science teachers need to be prepared to teach students to read different sources of information. Concentrate on the reading objectives, complete the LearnSmart assignments by the deadlines, and demonstrate the comprehension of these topics with reading notes on the chapters or the summaries at the end of each chapter.

During normal lab activities there will be regular opportunities to present your findings to your classmates. You will be expected to practice good speaking skills: Start & end with planned declarative sentences, speak up & speak clearly, and direct your comments to your classmates. There will be several assigned reports which you will be expected to present without any notes, so be sure you know the material.

This dimension of the course allows you to make decisions and enhance your grade. There will be several teaching opportunities that occur outside of class time. I also have ongoing projects building the displays in the Atrium. Each activity will count for a certain number of points at a rate of - 1 point/hour. In some cases, points will require written summaries. Sloppy or incomplete efforts will not be accepted. The single criteria for evaluation will be "evidence of a significant effort to enhance personal pedagogical knowledge." For some, reflection is expected as documentation of what was learned through these opportunities. Any additional projects that you might propose outside of those offered in the course must be approved in advance for credit.

This will be given a preliminary grade as formative assessment after the midterm and a full summative assessment after the final exam. Concentrate on demonstrating critical synthesis of every class activity. If any lessons are not completed and summarized, the notebook grade will not be any greater than a "C" regardless of other efforts. Top grades will be awarded for clear evidence of comprehension of the material. It is extremely important to focus on building a document that clearly demonstrates understanding of the course content.

This Lab Notebook should be much more than a sterile display of coursework. As preparation for teaching science to young students, think about colorful ways to show understanding and appreciation of the information. Use Google or other engines to download images for visual displays. If you have a camera, take your own pictures and every image should have a detailed caption describing WHAT YOU LEARNED.

For a C:

Every weekly lesson, trip, & reflection covered in Lab Notebook  
Completion of LearnSmart Assignments >70%  
Class Average 69-e should

Written assignments will reinforce class lessons and will help you to learn, outside the classroom, through your own thinking. Papers are an opportunity to display your knowledge through more than just exams or what you might or might not say in class. These assignments also allow you to show your own style of expression and personal interests, so you should take pride in them.

Well-crafted writing always has a specific purpose. Every paragraph or paper should have a distinct thesis or central idea. Your thesis should directly address the nature of the writing assignment. Decide on the topic and a specific case you want to make before you start writing. Write the thesis or topic sentence down and check back throughout the writing process to be certain that the work supports it. Concentrate on demonstrating your understanding of the scientific information.

Before you begin to write, think through how you plan to develop your thesis and use an outline to structure the paper. An Introduction and Conclusion will be the first and last paragraphs of your paper. Start paper with something catchy to interest the reader. Make it perfectly clear, in this introductory section, what your point or central idea will be. Support that concept throughout the body of your paper. Paragraphs in the middle will be the Body of your text. Subheadings should be used for clarity. Your assignments in this class should usually be in first person. Avoid using statements such as "In this paper I will discuss..." since it is much more sophisticated to avoid this type of "crutch statement."

Divide the paper by major themes and make each of these a distinct paragraph. You should have at least 3 paragraphs on a 1-page, single-