

## **ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION (BIOL 3250 A,B,C) -- Spring Semester 2022**

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Biol. Dept. 333-5759

**Tentative Laboratory/Field Schedule****Assignment (pts.)**

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Week 1 -- Intro to Inland Coastal Plain Ecosystems (field)	Hypotheses	(10)
(***READ Ecol. pp. 12-17; Skim Ch. 28-31 + Appendix A for ideas***)		
2 -- Phylogenetic Rules and Reconstruction (also, set up Bacterial Selection experiment)	Assignment	(10)
3 -- Population Genetics Computer Simulations	Scientific Paper	(15)
4 -- TBA		
5 -- Tree hosts of mistletoe (field)	Scientific Paper	(25)
6 -- Ecological Transect sampling I	TBA	
7 -- Human Demography	Life Table	(20)
8 -- TBA		
9 -- Mark-Recapture and Pop. Estimation Simulation	Report	(20)
10 -- Community Ecology Field Experiment I		
11 -- Trophic interactions simulations	Scientific Report	(35)
12 -- Community Ecology Field Experiment II		
13 -- Community Ecology Field Experiment III		
14 -- Community Ecology Data Analysis	Scientific Paper	(45)

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***NOTE 1: Sections A & C***

## Ecology and Evolution (BIOL 3250) – Spring 2022 Expectations of Students

1. The text chapters will serve as your introduction and background to the lecture topics. Therefore, read them carefully, preferably before the lecture; otherwise, you may find that you are lost! Success in this course demands that you attend every day and come to class prepared.
2. On weeks that I inform you we will be in the field, be prepared to leave for the field promptly at lab time--this includes APPROPRIATE ATTIRE. It may be hot or cold. We will be encountering briars, chiggers, fire ants, ticks, mosquitoes, and possibly snakes; you are responsible for your own protection against these as well as the climatic elements (I can't control either). You may not make up missed labs; I will deduct points from your grade for any lab absences beyond one.
3. An important part of this course is the writing of laboratory reports and scientific papers. We will be collecting data in the field and lab, and analyzing these data, as a group. You will be receiving written and verbal instructions for preparing a scientific paper early in the semester. I expect you to share the basic data and results of certain analyses. I expect each and every person to do his or her own writing, however. Copying of phrases or sentences from references or even slightly modified phrases and sentences "borrowed" from these sources constitutes **plagiarism** and will not be tolerated in this course. Putting quotation marks around such phrases, even with proper attribution (citation) is not much better; the idea is to use your own unique set of words.

Borrowing of sentences or paragraphs from *your* previously written papers or others' papers is also plagiarism. I keep a file of the best papers from previous classes. I will also use electronic means of detecting plagiarism. Any attempt at plagiarism on any paper will earn the student a grade of zero and will be reported to the Dean of Students office. Repeat violations may warrant additional penalties or disciplinary action, as described on the VSU Biology Department Home Page<sup>1</sup>.

Despite the above admonition, a few students nearly every semester are foolish enough to "test" the system by passing off papers that contained portions plagiarized from earlier papers or from their cited sources or uncited sources. REMEMBER: (1) I KEEP COPIES OF EARLIER STUDENT PAPERS AND OF IMPORTANT PRIMARY REFERENCES; (2) I CONDUCT WEB SEARCHES OF ANY AND ALL SUSPECT PASSAGES.

4. Disruptive Behavior: a) absolutely no cell phone use in lecture or lab/field; b) do not come to



## **Statement on COVID-19 Safety Protocols**

VSU, the CDC, and I strongly encourage students to be vaccinated against COVID-19, and that process is both easy and free. It can be done at the Student Health Center—call them at 333-5886 for an appointment. VSU strongly advises that students who are not yet fully vaccinated will wear a fitted facial covering of nose and mouth at all times indoors; **even those who have been fully vaccinated are now advised to wear masks when unable to safely distance indoors because of the highly contagious omicron variant, which even vaccinated individuals can acquire and transmit** (NOTE: neck gators are not effective and therefore will not meet this requirement; masks with exhaust valves also are not effective, as they vent particles into the air). Remember, it is the right thing for all of us to do to be mutually respectful of each other's health and well-being. If you should develop symptoms or come in close contact with someone who has tested positive or has COVID symptoms, contact the Student Health Center (229-333-5886, or walk-in) and/or make an appointment with the Lowndes County Public Health Service COVID testing center by calling 844-955-1499, and do not come to class until you receive a negative test and your symptoms clear (or 10 days after symptoms start if you do not get a test). This is a face-to-face course and you are expected to be in class (lecture and lab); any special accommodations will require documentation (including from Student Affairs). VSU's Coronavirus FAQ page is <https://www.valdosta.edu/health-advisory/faq.php>. For whatever reason you might miss class, you must inform the instructor ASAP you will be (or have been) absent and receive instructions for making up work.

Although you should wear a proper-fitting mask covering the mouth *and nose* at all times when inside the building, it is especially important that we all mask up while riding in very close quarters in the van to and from our field trips—whether vaccinated or not.

### **Latest from VSU on COVID-19**

The USG continues to strongly encourage masks in all campus buildings. Hand sanitizer remains readily available. The Student Health Center is still conducting COVID-19 testing for all students during normal business hours with no appointment needed, and vaccinations are available [by](#)

