Course Syllabus and Lecture Schedule

Instructor: Dr. Colleen Hatfield  
Office: 240 Holt  
Phone: 898-4235  
Email: chatfield@csuchico.edu  
Office Hours: M 2-4; W 2:00-3:00; R 11-1:00 or by appointment

Lecture Schedule: MW 11-11:50 in Holt 268  
Lab Schedule: 2-4:50 in H 251: Mon (Sec 02) and Wed (Sec 04) – Shelly Kirn Instructor; Tues (Sec 02) Rachel Francis Instructor

Fundamentals of Ecology Learning Outcomes:

1. To understand that Ecology is the part of biology that studies the interrelationships between organisms (including humans) and their environment.
2. To demonstrate an understanding of, and ability to use, the processes and methods of scientific inquiry.
3. To demonstrate the ability to formally communicate orally and in writing the results of ecological investigations.

This is an approved writing proficiency (WP) course, open only to students who have completed ENGL 130 (or its equivalent) with a grade of C- or higher. Your grade will depend in part on how well you complete the writing assignments, including lab report drafts and revisions, the research report (both written and orally-presented materials), and essay questions on exams. **You must earn a C or better to fulfill the writing proficiency requirement.** A background in basic biology and chemistry is assumed; familiarity with statistics is helpful.

Blackboard is your primary source of handouts, schedule updates, etc.

The **Textbook** is Essentials of Ecology 4th edition (2014) by Begon, Howarth and Townsend. (The 3rd Edition is also acceptable but note that it is dated.) The publisher’s website also has multiple tools to help in your studies including self-guided quizzes at the end of each chapter. Check out the website: http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/townsend/

The BIOL 350 **Lab Manual** is available for sale from Omicron Theta Epsilon for between $10-15. **Purchase through Wildcat Card only!** A **lab notebook** and a calculator are needed for indoor lab; a field notebook for field trips.

**The Lab Period** will consist of field trips as well as in-class exercises. Transportation for off-campus field trips will be by University bus only. **Private cars are not allowed on field trips.** For field trips you will need a small field notebook and personal gear such as water, snacks, hat, water shoes, jacket, etc. Come prepared—dress appropriately for field conditions and wear sturdy, support shoes. Do not count on returning to campus before 4:50 p.m. on field trip days.

Adds and Drops. The last day to drop the course without any signature is the end of Week Two. After Week Four, a serious and compelling reason is required to drop along with documentation of that situation, plus you must get the signatures of the Department Chair and Dean.

**Grading**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecture Midterm I (includes material in lecture, lab and field, non-cumulative)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture Midterm II (includes material in lecture, lab and field, non-cumulative)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Lecture Exam (semi-cumulative)</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written Lab Reports and Revisions (Draft -25 pts. Final-50 pts)</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Notebooks (excluding reports)</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research project proposal and first draft (25 pts each)</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research project (oral group presentation 25 pts; poster &amp; Poster Symposium 75 pts)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class participation (25 lecture/50 lab)</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture activities/Assignments/Quizzes</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Possible</strong></td>
<td><strong>750</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading policy: A: 90-100%; B: 80-89%; C: 70-79%; D: 60-69%; F: <60%. Pluses and minuses will be given. Final letter grades are assigned only after all points have been tallied at the end of the semester.
### Spring 2015 Ecology Lecture Class Schedule (Subject to Change)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Text Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 21</td>
<td>Introduction, History</td>
<td>Ch 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 26</td>
<td>Ecological Methods</td>
<td>Ch 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 28</td>
<td>No lecture, Assignment</td>
<td>Ch 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 2</td>
<td>The evolutionary backdrop</td>
<td>Ch 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 4</td>
<td>The evolutionary backdrop</td>
<td>Ch 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 9</td>
<td>Conditions and resources: temperature, water</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 11</td>
<td>Conditions and resources: light, soil</td>
<td>Ch 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 16</td>
<td>World biomes and ecosystems</td>
<td>Ch 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 18</td>
<td>World biomes and ecosystems</td>
<td>Ch 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 23</td>
<td>Population Ecology</td>
<td>Ch 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 25</td>
<td>Population Ecology</td>
<td>Ch 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 2</td>
<td>Population Ecology</td>
<td>Ch 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 4</td>
<td>MIDTERM EXAM I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 9</td>
<td>Competition</td>
<td>Ch 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 11</td>
<td>Competition</td>
<td>Ch 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 16</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
<td>Ch 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 23</td>
<td>Predation, Grazing, Disease</td>
<td>Ch 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 25</td>
<td>Predation, Grazing, Disease</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 30</td>
<td>César Chávez Holiday</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 1</td>
<td>Evolutionary Ecology</td>
<td>Ch 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 6</td>
<td>Evolutionary Ecology</td>
<td>Ch 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 8</td>
<td>Population Processes</td>
<td>Ch 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 13</td>
<td>Population Processes</td>
<td>Ch 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 15</td>
<td>MIDTERM EXAM II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 20</td>
<td>Species Richness</td>
<td>Ch 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 22</td>
<td>Energy and Matter</td>
<td>Ch 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 27</td>
<td>Energy and Matter</td>
<td>Ch 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 29</td>
<td>Sustainability</td>
<td>Ch 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>Sustainability</td>
<td>Ch 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 6</td>
<td>Applied Ecology and Conservation Ecology</td>
<td>Ch 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 12</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM Monday 12-1:50 (Semi cumulative)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>