

BIOSC 0370 / 0390: Ecology & Ecology Lab
Summer 2022
May 16 – June 3, 2022

Instructor: Dr. Dan Wetzel
Email: dwetzel@pitt.edu

TA:
TA email:

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The goal of this course is to provide students with an overview of ecology from the level of the individual organism to populations, communities, and ecosystems. In the process, students will learn key ecological concepts and methods, apply mathematical models to ecological problems, and interpret ecological data.

PREREQUISITES

You must have completed introductory biology lecture (e.g., BIOSC 0160) and lab (e.g., BIOSC 0067) with a “C” or better.

COURSE MATERIALS

Textbook: Ecology for All! (free textbook available on Libretexts)
Non-graphing calculator
Write-in-the-rain notebook

COURSE MEETINGS

Typically, we’ll meet for lecture material in the morning and lab activities in the afternoon/evening (weather pending). Exact times will be shared at least 1 week before class begins.

STAYING IN TOUCH

I encourage you to communicate with me and other students in this course. **Don’t hesitate to reach out for help. The best way to contact me is at dwetzel@pitt.edu, or during the class to ask me questions in-person.**

EXPECTATIONS

Take care of your health. Remain engaged in the course. Maintain open communication with the instructor and your classmates. Reach out for help when you need it (communicate need for support or flexibility with course deadlines). Take responsibility for your learning. Treat each other and your instructor with respect.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance in lecture and lab is required; come to class prepared and on time. Class meetings are interactive and student attendance and participation is essential for success in this course. Come prepared to think, question, write, and discuss your ideas with the class community. Some material covered in lecture and on exams may not be found in the text. You are responsible for everything covered, mentioned, discussed, and displayed in class.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR LEARNING

My role is to facilitate your development as an independent learner; your role is to be active in your learning, ask questions and come to me (or the TA) early if you need help - do not wait until the last minute. Take responsibility for your personal objectives. It is your responsibility to work towards your success in this course.

EVALUATION METHODS

Three exams will be administered throughout the 3-week term (2 midterms and a final). You cannot make-up missed exams.

Students will conduct field experiments and are responsible for writing and presenting the results of their work. Students will engage in peer review of other’s lab reports. Late assignments will not be accepted.

There are no anticipated extra credit opportunities in this course. Final grades in this course will not be curved.

GRADES

Additional details will be provided at least 1 week before class begins.

Final Grade: Your final grade will be determined based on your total points earned during the semester. The following grade scale will be used:

Final Percentage	Letter Grade
97.5 – 100%	A+
92.5 – 97.4%	A
90.0 – 92.4%	A-
87.5 – 89.9%	B+
82.5 – 87.4%	B
80.0 – 82.4%	B-
77.5 – 79.9%	C+
72.5 – 77.4%	C
70.0 – 72.4%	C-
67.5 – 69.9%	D+
62.5 – 67.4%	D
60.0 – 62.4%	D-
59.9% or less	F

IMPORTANT POLICY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Cheating/plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students enrolled in courses at PLE are expected to abide by the academic integrity policies of both the University of Pittsburgh and, where applicable, the other institution through which they enrolled. Students suspected of violating either or both institutions' policies will be required to participate in the procedural process outlined therein. A minimum sanction of a zero score for the exam or paper will be imposed.

Academic integrity policies can be found at the links below:

- University of Pittsburgh: <https://www.policy.pitt.edu/university-policies-and-procedures/university-policies-category/academic-policies>
- Clarion: <http://www.clarion.edu/student-life/student-affairs/conduct-policies-and-judicial-services/student-code-of-conduct/academic-integrity-policy.html>
- Edinboro: https://www.edinboro.edu/resources/documents/offices-services/eu_code_of_conduct.pdf#search=academic%20integrity
- IUP: <https://www.iup.edu/academicaffairs/for-faculty/academic-integrity/index.html>
- Slippery Rock: https://www.sru.edu/documents/offices/student-conduct/code_of_conduct.pdf

LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

We will use **Canvas** as our Learning Management System. Important information and announcements regarding this course and your course grades will be posted here. Course documents (including PPTs, outlines, assignments etc.) will be posted on Canvas. Exams will be administered in-person. **Students should check Canvas frequently.**

TURNITIN

Students agree that by taking this course all required papers will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of Turnitin.com page service is subject to the Usage Policy and Privacy Pledge posted on the Turnitin.com site.

IMPORTANT POLICY ANNOUNCEMENTS

HEALTH AND SAFETY

During this pandemic, it is extremely important that you abide by the [public health regulations](#), the University of Pittsburgh's [health standards and guidelines](#), and [Pitt's Health Rules](#). These rules have been developed to protect the health and safety of all of us. **Universal face covering is required in all classrooms without exceptions, regardless of vaccination status.** This means you must wear a face covering that properly covers your nose and mouth when you are in the classroom. If you do not comply, you will be asked to leave class. It is your responsibility have the required face covering when entering a classroom. For the most up-to-date information and guidance, please visit coronavirus.pitt.edu.

If you are required to isolate or quarantine, become sick, or are unable to come to class, contact me as soon as possible to discuss arrangements.

EMAIL

I will routinely send out announcements through email and/or Canvas. Given that this is a compressed course, I expect you to read emails sent to your University of Pittsburgh email account (or the email account provided upon course registration for non-Pitt students) daily during the work week (Monday through Friday). Students are expected to read e-mail sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to University communications in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of the communications. The University provides an e-mail forwarding service that allows students to read their e-mail via other service providers (e.g., Hotmail, AOL, Yahoo). Students that choose to forward their e-mail from their pitt.edu address to another address do so at their own risk. If e-mail is lost as a result of forwarding, it does not absolve the student from responding to official communications sent to their University e-mail address.

EXAM REVIEW/REGRADE

You may not remove or reproduce any part of the exam or answer key; violation of this will result in a grade of 0 on the exam and an Academic Integrity Violation Report. You may request a regrade of an exam by submitting your request in writing within one week of the exam grades being posted. Unless the regrade request is simply due to mathematical error, be aware that your entire exam may be reevaluated.

G GRADE

G grades are assigned to students who have been attending a course, have been making regular progress, and are prevented (by circumstances beyond their control) from completing the course after it is too late to withdraw. If you wish to petition for a G grade, you must submit a request for this grade and documentation of your reason(s) in writing to Dr. Wetzal at least one week prior to the last class.

DISABILITY

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor, the PLE Program Administrator (814-273-0416), and Disability Resources and Services (DRS; 412-648-7890) as early as possible to determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

CLASSROOM RECORDING

To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record classroom lectures, discussion and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student's own private use.

IMPORTANT POLICY ANNOUNCEMENTS

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The University of Pittsburgh does not tolerate any form of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation based on disability, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, genetic information, marital status, familial status, sex, age, sexual orientation, veteran status or gender identity or other factors as stated in the University's Title IX policy. The University is committed to taking prompt action to end a hostile environment that interferes with the University's mission. [More information](#).

I ask that everyone in the class strive to help ensure that other members of this class can learn in a supportive and respectful environment. If there are instances of the aforementioned issues, please contact the Title IX Coordinator, by calling 412-648-7860, or e-mailing titleixcoordinator@pitt.edu. Reports can also be filed [online](#). You may also choose to report this to a faculty/staff member; they are required to communicate this to the University's Office of Diversity and Inclusion. If you wish to maintain complete confidentiality, you may also contact the University Counseling Center (412-648-7930).

DISCLAIMER

The instructor reserves the right to modify the course schedule or other aspects of the syllabus during the semester as necessary to achieve course objectives. Any changes to the syllabus (or to the course schedule) will be announced in class, on Canvas, and/or via email. Students are responsible for adjusting to these announced changes to the course.

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

Taking care of yourself is vital to gain the most out of your educational experience. Do your best to maintain a healthy lifestyle this summer by eating well, getting enough sleep, and taking time to relax. Using your time to take care of yourself will help you achieve your academic goals more than spending all your time studying.

For course related assistance: ask questions in class, talk to Dr. Wetzel, take advantage of student study groups, and talk to our awesome TA.

All of us benefit from support and guidance during times of struggle. Take the time to learn about the resources available to our students and take advantage of them. This site provides links to food, health, employment, housing, and support resources both at Pitt and within the Pittsburgh Community: bit.ly/help-resources

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

Tentative Lecture Outline

DAY	DATE	TOPIC	CHAPTERS
1	May 16	Introduction to Ecology 1: The Environment: Climate, Climate Change, Biomes	1, 5, 6 5, 6, & p 548-550
2	May 17	1: The Environment: Climate, Climate Change, Biomes 2: Response to Environment: Evolution	5, 6, & p 548-550 7
3	May 18	2: Response to Environment: Speciation & Macroevolution 2: Response to Environment: Adaptation	7 2, 3, 4
4	May 19	3: Life Histories	8
5	May 20	Exam 1	
6	May 23	4: Sexual Strategies 5: Behavioral Ecology	9 10
7	May 24	6: Population Ecology: Population Growth and Dynamics	12, 13
8	May 25	7: Population Ecology: Population Distributions	11, 13
9	May 26	8: Species Interactions: Predation, Herbivory, Parasitism	14, 15
10	May 27	Exam 2	
-	May 30	<i>NO CLASS – Memorial Day</i>	
11	May 31	8: Species Interactions: Competition & Mutualism	16, 17
12	June 1	9: Community Ecology: Structure and Succession	18, 19, 22
13	June 2	10: Ecosystems: Movement of Energy and Elements 11: Conservation Ecology	20, 21 23
14	June 3	Final Exam	

IMPORTANT DATES

*****Details of this syllabus are subject to change*****