2014

251-01 Ecology Lab

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ECOLOGY

(BIOL 250 & 251)

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10:00 - 10:50 AM
Monday, Wednesday & Friday 11:00 - 11:50 AM
Monday 1:00 – 2:50 (laboratory – 303 Alb.) sec. 1 (McIntosh)
Tuesday 2:30-4:20 (Laboratory – 303 Alb.) sec. 2 (Pecquet)
Thursday 2:30-4:20 (Laboratory – 303 Alb.) sec. 3 (Farnsworth)

Instructors:

Lecture: Dr. Brent Blair
E-mail blairb@xavier.edu
Office 209 Albers Hall
Tele. 745-4898

Lab: Dr. Mollie McIntosh
    Monday
E-mail mcintoshm2@xavier.edu
Office 112 Albers Hall
Tele. 745-3363

Mr. Howard Pecquet
    Tuesday
E-mail pecqueth@xavier.edu
Office 312C Albers Hall
Tele. 871-6305 (home)

Dr. George Farnsworth
    Thursday
E-mail farnsworth@xavier.edu
Office 312 Albers Hall
Tele. 745-2062

Office Hours: Dr. Blair: Monday 3:00 – 3:50, and Friday 1:00 – 1:50 or by appointment.
Lab instructors will provide office hours at 1st lab meeting.


Course Web Site: http://site.xavier.edu/blairb/ (contains lecture notes & additional readings)

Discussion readings, worksheets etc.: Additional materials will be required periodically throughout the course. Articles will be available on-line through our course website (http://site.xavier.edu/blairb/) and other materials will be handed out during class.

It is important that you read the discussion articles before coming to class! There will be periodic POP quizzes (5 pt. each) on assigned discussion articles. Quizzes will take 5 minutes and occur at the beginning of the class period. No make up quizzes will be given. Quizzes are not intended to be difficult, but rather to encourage everyone to do the readings so we can have fruitful discussions.

Attendance: Coming to lecture and lab is mandatory. A significant portion of test material will be based on material presented in lectures, discussions & labs that is not necessarily found in your textbook or handouts. This course will be an interactive experience where you will be expected to think critically and interact with each other and myself. This cannot be accomplished without being present and engaged!! Unexcused absences will greatly impact your participation grade.

Assigned readings: Assigned readings should be read BEFORE coming to lecture. Although there will be overlap between lectures and readings much of the material in lecture will go beyond your textbook. I will assume that you have a basic understanding of your reading assignments.
**Grading:** Your grades will be based on tests, various classroom and lab assignments, and participation. You will receive two separate letter grades for the lecture and laboratory component of the course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Laboratory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tests (3x100): 300</td>
<td>Test (2x35): 70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments: 40 (Lecture)</td>
<td>Tree ID quiz: 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Field trip” 10</td>
<td>Papers (2x20): 40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation: 50</td>
<td>Assignments: 50 (Lab)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation:</td>
<td>Participation: 30</td>
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| Total | 400 pts | Total | 200 pts |

**Tests:** There will be 3 tests (100 points each) in lecture and 2 tests (35 points each) in lab. Periodic in-class and homework assignments will be due throughout the course. Unless otherwise noted all homework assignments should be typed, double-spaced & stapled and handed in at the beginning of the class on the day they are due. Generally, lecture assignments will be worth 5 pts and lab assignments will be worth between 5 – 10 pts each depending on the length and difficulty of the assignment. Note that assignments should be handed in at the beginning of the lecture or lab in which they were assigned. Pop quizzes will be counted towards the lecture assignment total.

**Assignments:**

**Participation:** If you do not attend class, you cannot participate! If you are not adding your thoughts to the discussion you are not participating! This portion of your grade will be based in part on attendance (lab and lecture) and in part on your active involvement in the class.

**Late Penalty:** Late assignments will be marked down 5% for each school day (or partial day) they are late.

**Final Grade:** Both courses will be graded on a standard scale (i.e., not curved). If your score is close to the next letter grade (above or below) “+” and “-“ grades will be used.

- **A** = 450 - 500 (90-100%)  
  (90-92%=A-, 93-100%=A)  
- **B** = 400 - 449 (80-89%)  
  (80-82%=B-, 83-86%=B, 87-89%=B+)  
- **C** = 350 - 399 (70-79%)  
  (70-72%=C-, 73-76%=C, 77-79%=C+)  
- **D** = 300 - 349 (60-69%)  
  (60-62%=D-, 63-66%=D, 67-69%=D+)  
- **F** = 0 - 300 (59% or less)

**Electronic Use Policy:** Note that failure to follow the guidelines below will result in a reduced participation grade.

**Cell phones:** Phones may be left on vibrate for emergency notification purposes only. They should be stored off your desk and in a bag or pocket at all times. There is a zero tolerance policy for texting/cell phone use in class. If you expect an important phone call, please inform me before class and quietly excuse yourself when you receive it.

**Laptops & Tablets:** Computers are to be used for note taking purposes only during class. They are not to be used for surfing the internet, Facebook or other activities unrelated to Ecology. Some labs will require computer use. During these labs computers should be used for the intended purpose only as described by the instructor.
Goals: “Ecology is the scientific study of the processes influencing the distribution and abundance of organisms, the interactions among organisms, and the interactions between organisms and the transformation and flux of energy and matter.” (Institute for Ecosystem Studies)

The overall purpose of this course is to explore the hierarchical nature of ecology, which spans from the individual organism, to the community and the ecosystem. Special attention will be given to learning the theoretical and experimental frameworks of ecology that scientists use to expand knowledge in this discipline.

When you are finished with this course (lecture & lab) you should be able to,

1. Understand the variety of ways organisms interact with their biotic and abiotic environment.
2. Understand the differences in the structure and function of different types of ecosystems.
3. Describe methods of data analysis as well as interpret complex scientific information presented in figures and tables.
4. Use acquired quantitative skills for basic data analysis.
5. Describe common field techniques used in ecological studies.
6. Appreciate the scope of current ecological and environmental problems facing the world today.