Tentative Laboratory/Field Schedule	Assignment (pts.)
Week 1 -- Intro to Inland Coastal Plain Ecosystems. (***READ pp. 12-17; Skim Ch. 28-31 + Appendix A for ideas***)	Hypotheses (10)
2 -ï No Labs this week.	
3 ï- Phylogenenetic Rules and Reconstruction (also, set up Bacterial Selection experiment)	Assignment (15)
4 -- Population Genetics Computer Simulations	Assignment/Paper (15)
5 -- Bacterial Selection	Assignment (15)
6 -ð Ecological Transect sampling I	TBA
Week 7 or 8: **FIELDTRIP TO SAPELO ISLAND (Fri-Sun, either 25-27 Feb. or 4-6 March)**	
8 ï- Analysis of Sapelo experimental data	Scientific Paper (35)
9 -- Human Demography	Life Table (20)
10 -- Mark-Recapture and Pop. Estimation Simulation	Report (20)
11-14 -- Community and/or Behavioral Ecology Field Experiments (TBA)	Scientific Paper (45)

Some Interesting and Possibly Helpful Websites:

On Evolution-- http://thisviewoflife.org/

Online Biology Text --
http://www.estrellamountain.edu/faculty/farabee/biobk/BioBookEVOLI.html

Companion site for your Evolution Text:
http://biology.jbpub.com/evolution/

Companion site for your Ecology Text:
http://occawlonline.pearsoned.com/bookroom/o

Ecology (BIOL 3250) Spring 2011 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. 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 as a group. In some cases, we will analyze these data as a group. You will be receiving written and verbal instructions as to how to prepare a scientific paper later 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 without quotation marks and proper citation or even slightly modified phrases and sentences "borrowed" from these sources constitutes plagiarism and will not be tolerated in this course.

Borrowing of sentences or paragraphs from 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[1].

Despite the above admonition, a few students in past years have been foolish enough to "test" the system by passing off papers that contained portions plagiarized from earlier papers and from the Web. 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. Each student is responsible for making up any material missed due to absence, regardless of reason. Attitude, attendance, cooperation, etc. are appropriate criteria for me to consider when assigning a final grade when the student's grade is "borderline." Excessive absences, conveyance of negative attitudes, lack of attentiveness or cooperation will not incline me toward giving you that extra "benefit of the doubt" in such decisions.

Ecological fieldwork can be fun and rewarding, but at times it can be hard work under rigorous conditions. If you are not used to either of the latter two, be prepared for a learning experience that may enrich your life in ways you'll only begin to appreciate now. And since we'll all be doing this together, adopting a positive attitude from the start will improve the already likely prospects of this being a positive experience for everyone.

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[1]http://www.valdosta.edu/biology/