

ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION (BIOL 3250 G) -- Fall Semester 2022

Tentative Laboratory/Field Schedule

Assignment (pts.)

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Ecology (BIOL 3250) – Fall 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 Page¹.

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 class late or leave early (being late to lab may be counted as absence!); c) no talking or voluntary outbursts in lecture... Note: a sneeze is involuntary; the reflexive "bless-you" is voluntary and therefore controllable; just repress that urge, please!
5. Academic Dishonesty: cheating of any kind on an assignment or exam will not be tolerated and will result in failure on assignment, and possibly in the course, plus other penalties as may be allowed by VSU policy (consult the VSU Student Handbook²).
6. 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.

¹<http://www.valdosta.edu/biology/>

²<http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/vp-office/academic-dishonesty.php>

Non-Discrimination and Title IX Statement

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