

Principles of Ecology Laboratory

Bio 3292, Fall 2007

Instructor: _____

Phone Number: _____

Office: _____

Email Address: _____

Office Hours: _____

Department of Biology Office: 458-4458, BSB 2.03.02

Week Of	Topic	Chapter
August 27	Ecosystem Structure	1, ☐
September 3	No Labs - Labor Day Holiday	
September 10	Plant Competition *	3
September 17	Statistics and Computers	2
September 24	Species Diversity *‡§	6
October 1	Microclimates *‡§	13
October 8	Population Growth *★	11
October 15	Midterm Exam	12
	Standard Curves*★	3
	Harvest Plant Competition*	
October 22	Waste Water Treatment Plant* §★	10
	Waste Water Indicator Organisms *★	9
October 24**	<i>Last day to drop an individual course and receive an automatic 'W'</i>	
October 29	Foraging Behavior *‡§	5
November 5	Estimation of Plant Populations *‡§★	8, ☐
	Community Succession *‡§★	16
November 12	Fire Ecology *‡§★	4
November 19	No Labs - Thanksgiving Holiday	
November 26	Final Exam	

☐ Web CT Handout

- * Work will be outside or you will be working with soil, chemicals, or microorganisms, **DRESS ACCORDINGLY!**
Close-toed shoes required at all times. Students dressed inappropriately **will not** be permitted to participate in the laboratory exercise!
- ★ Long pants required!
- ‡ Insect repellent is recommended!
- § Sunscreen is recommended!

At times you may be required to walk up to ¼ of a mile during a lab session.

Without prior notice, severe weather may require that labs scheduled outdoors be replaced with one or more of the following indoor replacement labs:

- Estimation of Animal Populations - Chapter 7
- Predator Prey Interactions - Chapter 15

Required Text: *Ecology: Laboratory Manual*, O. W. Van Auken, J. K. Bush, S.A. Elliott. 2005. Pearson Custom Publishing.

Required Supplies:

- 1) 3½" Floppy Disks (2) or USB Flash Drives (2) - **for use in Ecology Lab only; all assignments must be saved on both disks; may be collected for credit at random; bring to each lab session**
- 2) Scientific calculator

Grading Scheme:

- 70% Lab Units (11 units; units may include quizzes, abstracts, graphs, tables, Analyse-It printouts, calculations, etc.)
- 15% Midterm Exam
- 15% Final Exam

It is the student's responsibility to keep and maintain a record of all graded and returned work.

Extra Credit: Read Ahead Quiz (2 pt/lab unit; excludes Ecosystem Structure)

Attendance Policy:

In order to receive credit for any laboratory assignment, you must be present for the **entire lab session**. If you have an excused absence, you may receive credit for the assignment of that lab session when the work is completed. **The only excused absences will be for sickness (with a doctor's excuse), death in the family with documentation, or documented University event.** If you miss a lab with an excused absence and wish to make up the lab, you must contact your lab instructor no later than **24** hours after your regularly scheduled lab session. Missing all or part of a lab session due to inappropriate dress will be considered an unexcused absence.

Late Policy:

Laboratory assignments are **due at the beginning of class**. Assignments turned in after class begins (e.g. due to tardiness) will be deducted 10 points. Assignments turned in the following day will be deducted 20 points. Assignments turned in the third day will be deducted 30 points. **Assignments will not be accepted after three days and a zero will be assigned for that work. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS MADE.** Assignments turned in the second or third day must be turned in to the instructors' mailbox in the Department of Biology office (BSB 2.03.02) and **stamped with the date and time**, otherwise they will not be accepted. The Department of Biology office hours are 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Monday-Friday. Exceptions will not be made for conflicting work or school schedules. **Late assignments may not be submitted by email.**

In order to receive credit for an assignment a hardcopy of the assignment must be submitted. All assignments must be saved on both disks; disks may be collected at random. All written assignments must be typed using a word processing program on a personal computer, or they will not be accepted. All graphs, figures, or tables must be completed using a spreadsheet program on a personal computer, or they will not be accepted.

Printer Policy: The printer is to be used for printing **in-class** work only. The printer is not to be used to print laboratory assignments before class begins, to print WebCT notes for the laboratory or the lecture, or to print notes and/or assignments for other classes.

****Drop Dates: *October 24***

Last day for sophomores and above (30 or more semester hours earned) to drop an individual course or withdraw from all classes and receive an automatic grade of "W" for Fall 2007. An individual course may not be dropped after this date without withdrawing from all classes.

November 28

Last day for freshman (29 or fewer semester hours earned) to drop an individual course or withdraw from all classes and receive an automatic grade of "W" for Fall 2007. Courses may not be dropped or withdrawn after this date.

Classroom Behavior:

Civility and non-disruptive behavior are expected of all students in the classroom. Disruptive behavior is classified as any behavior that disturbs either the instructor or fellow students. Students displaying non-civil or disruptive behavior will be asked to leave the classroom. Examples of non-civil or disruptive behavior include but are not limited to the following:

- ringing of cellular phones or beepers (please set to silent mode or turn off before class begins)
- tardiness or leaving early
- making offensive remarks
- prolonged chattering
- reading newspapers, books for pleasure, or text books for other courses
- reading email
- sleeping
- overt inattentiveness
- demands for special treatment

ALL STUDENTS are responsible for reading and understanding the information concerning scholastic dishonesty presented in the Student Code of Conduct. Pay specific attention to Sec.202. Specific Conduct Prescribed #21; Sec.203. Scholastic Dishonesty; Sec.301. Authorized Disciplinary Penalties; Sec.302. Explanation of Disciplinary Penalties; Sec.303. Authorized Academic Penalties; and Sec.401 & 402 under Initiation of Disciplinary Charges. The Student Code of Conduct applies to all students enrolled at the University. <http://www.utsa.edu/osja/conductoutline.cfm#sec101>

The integrity of a university degree depends on the integrity of the work done for that degree by each student. The University expects a student to maintain a high standard of individual honor in all scholastic work (*Rules and Regulations of the Board of Regents*, Chapter VI, 3.(17)). A student is expected and required to obey federal, state and local laws, to comply with the Regent's Rules and Regulations, with University Rules and Regulations, with directives issued by an administrative official of the System or the University in the course of his or her authorized duties, and to observe standards of conduct appropriate for an academic institution.

- A. The coordinator for Student Judicial Affairs or faculty may initiate disciplinary proceedings against any student accused of scholastic dishonesty.
- B. "Scholastic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, **cheating, plagiarism, collusion**, falsifying academic records and any **act designed to give unfair advantage to the student, or the attempt to commit such an act** (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor, **providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment**), or the **attempt to commit such an act**.
- C. "Cheating" includes, but is not limited to:
1. **copying from another student's test paper;**
 2. **using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;**
 3. failing to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
 4. **possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test**, such as class notes or specifically designed "crib notes." The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation only if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
 5. **using, buying, stealing, transporting or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution or computer program;**
 6. **collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;**
 7. **discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;**
 8. divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructor has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned to the student;
 9. substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one's self, to take a test;
 10. paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution or computer program, or information about an unadministered test, test key, homework solution or computer program;
 11. **falsifying research data, laboratory reports and/or other academic work offered for credit;**
 12. taking, keeping, misplacing or damaging the property of the University or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
 13. misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or résumés, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.
- D. "Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, **the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift or obtaining by any means another's work and the submission of it as one's own academic work offered for credit**.
- E. "Collusion" includes, but is not limited to, **the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty**.
- F. "Falsifying academic records" includes, but is not limited to, the altering of grades or other falsification of academic records such as applications for admission, the award of a degree, grade reports, test papers, registration materials and reporting forms used by the Office of the Registrar.

ALL work submitted for credit in this course must be ORIGINAL and INDEPENDENT. Non-original and/or non-independent work will be considered scholastic dishonesty and is unacceptable in this class. Scholastic dishonesty will result in no credit for an assignment/exam and/or a failing grade or reduced final grade for the course. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.

Scholastic Dishonesty in Ecology Lab:

The following are specific guidelines regarding acceptable and unacceptable behavior for all students enrolled in Principles of Ecology Laboratory (Bio 3292). Failure to comply with these standards *will* result in no credit for an assignment/exam and/or a failing grade or reduced final grade for the course. This explanation will serve as your first warning. **NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.**

Unacceptable:

1. Soliciting or receiving an electronic version of any person's data, graph, table, figure legend, abstract, calculations, etc.
2. Soliciting or receiving a hardcopy of any person's data, graph, table, figure legend, abstract, calculations, etc.
3. Providing any person with an electronic version of your data, graph, table, figure legend, abstract, calculations, etc.
4. Providing any person with a hardcopy of your data, graph, table, figure legend, abstract, calculations, etc.
5. Working jointly with any person to produce a graph, table, figure legend, abstract, or any calculations that will be submitted for credit.
6. Helping any person produce a graph, table, figure legend, abstract, or any calculations that will be submitted for credit.
7. Looking at any person's graph, table, figure legend, abstract, or calculations to get an idea of how to proceed with your assignment.
8. Looking at and/or copying from any person's paper during a quiz or exam.
9. Leaving an answer on a calculator for any person who is borrowing your calculator during a quiz or exam.
10. Using an answer left on a calculator when borrowing a calculator during a quiz or exam.
11. Storing unauthorized information on your calculator which you use without permission on a quiz or exam.
12. Discussing the contents of a quiz or exam with any person who will take the quiz or exam.
13. Offering a false excuse or offering false documentation in an effort to postpone taking a quiz or exam at its regularly scheduled time.
14. Using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered quiz or exam.
15. Falsifying research data offered for credit.

Acceptable:

1. Working as a group in class to complete an experiment and collect raw data*.
2. Copying or photocopying raw data* collected as a group in class.
3. Studying together for a quiz or exam.
4. Quizzing another student or having another person quiz you on quiz or exam topics.
5. Discussing concepts, readings, and notes to help another person understand and learn the material.
6. Asking another person questions regarding concepts, readings, and notes in an effort to understand and learn the material.
7. Asking your laboratory instructor questions regarding concepts, readings, notes, data analysis, abstract writing, table or graph production, etc.
8. Accepting constructive criticism from your laboratory instructor and applying their critiques to improve your assignment.

* **What is raw data?** Any data/notes collected throughout an experiment or study

Includes:

Daily/weekly notes on long term experiments

Data collected in the field/laboratory during an experiment or study

Does not include:

Data that has been manipulated, rewritten, statistically analyzed, or entered into a spreadsheet

BIO 3292 ASSIGNMENTS Fall 2007

Lab	Assignment	Due Date (week of)
<i>Ecosystem Structure</i>	Quiz	September 10
<i>Statistics and Computers</i>	Abstract-leaf Analyse-It printout-leaf Bar Graph-leaf	September 24
<i>Species Diversity</i>	Abstract	October 1
<i>Microclimates</i>	Table	October 8
<i>Population Growth</i>	Calculations (K and D ₂ ; p.109) BGC (model after Figure 11-1)	October 15
<i>Standard Curves</i>	Dilution Scheme (model after Table 12-1) Standard Curve (model after Figure 12-12)	October 22
<i>Waste Water Indicator Organisms</i>	Abstract	October 29
<i>Foraging Behavior</i>	Abstract Chi-Square Tables (6; model after Table 5-1)	November 5
<i>Plant Competition</i>	Abstract Graphs (4): EXP 1-Density 1) Biomass/pot & /plant vs. Density (model after Figure 3-1) 2) Leaves/pot & /plant vs. Density (model after Figure 3-1) EXP 3-Dewit 3) Biomass/plant vs. Species: Intra- & Interspecific (model after Figure 3-5) 4) Leaves/plant vs. Species: Intra- & Interspecific (model after Figure 3-5)	November 12
<i>Estimation of Plant Populations</i>	Abstract Calculations (pg. 85-88) Summary Table (model after Table 8-3) New Species Curve (model after Figure 8-3) Density Stabilization Curve (model after Figure 8-4)	November 26*
<i>Fire Ecology</i>	Abstract	November 26*

* Multiple Assignments Due - allocate your time accordingly

Note: Credit will not be given for non-original and/or non-independent work

Raw data must be submitted with all assignments