

Valdosta State University
Department of Biology, College of Arts and Sciences
BIOL 3250 Ecology and Evolution: Sections A & B
Lecture and Lab Syllabus, Fall 2015

Instructor: Dr. Cy L. Mott

Office: #1212 Bailey Science Center

Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00 1:50 A. M., Thursday 10:00 11:00 A. M. or by appointment

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Note: Please DO NOT send messages through BlazeVIEW, as they are not automatically forwarded to my VSU email account. Using the email address above will result in the most prompt response.

Course Time and Location: Lecture (BSC 1024): Monday & Wednesday, 3:30 4:45 P. M.
Labs (BSC 2073):
A: Tuesday, 9:00 A. M. 11:50 A. M.
B: Tuesday, 2:00 4:50 P. M.

Prerequisites: _____ or higher, or
permission of instructor.

Required Textbook/Equipment:

VSU, Ecology and Evolution (a custom book designed specifically for this course; available at the VSU bookstore and Dorks Books). A copy has also been placed on reserve at the library.

NXT

Registering your clicker: <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/elearning/main/current->

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, students will be expected to:

- 1) display an understanding of key concepts in ecology/evolution and associated theoretical and empirical evidence, while demonstrating a knowledge that evolutionary theory underlies all phenomena in biology
- 2) display an understanding of the scientific method as applied to ecological and evolutionary questions,
- 3) gain experience in reading, interpreting, and presenting information found in the primary literature, as well as build upon this information to create a lab report that follows the steps of the scientific method.

Attendance: Attendance in lecture and lab is expected of all students and will be verified through participation in class using clicker responses; students responding to < 80% of clicker questions throughout the semester will automatically - attendance (updated records of your attendance **will not** be provided regularly throughout the semester, therefore students who frequently miss class must be responsible for keeping track of their own attendance habits). If you do not have a clicker for a particular day in class, you will be Students arriving > 15 minutes late to lab will not be permitted to submit lab homework activities . **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES MAY AFTER THE WEEK OF THAT LAB HAS PASSED!!!** The VSU policy of 80% minimum attendance will be strictly enforced for both lecture and lab (i.e. you must meet the 80% mark for both), and the 20% allowable absences include any and all classes missed due to ents.

absences will be deemed simply because they place a student over the 20% mark if the student has failed to provide documentation for all previous absences. No sharing of clickers

life!

Absences for college-approved activities and in cases of personal emergencies that result in missed exams/homework (i.e., death in the immediate family or student hospitalization) will be approved at the discretion of the instructor if provided with suitable documentation (which may . In the case of college-approved activities, students must provide a minimum notice of five (5) business days to the instructor so that accommodations can be made. Lecture exams missed without prior approval cannot be made up, and all points associated with missed lectures will be forfeited. Students missing lecture exams with prior approval must take exams **before** their scheduled absence; no student will be permitted to take a lecture exam after it has been administered to the rest of the class. Students missing lab with prior approval due to college-approved activities and/or personal emergencies as described above may have the opportunity to attend another lab section during the week if available, but travel to any field sites will be the responsibility of the student due to limited seating in the university vans. Students with potential course conflicts that restrict them from arriving or leaving class on time should consult with the instructor immediately.

Assessments:

Exams (350 points): The dates for all exams a(a)-3(t)-3(h)6(e)-3(in)-3(struc6.1 Tm[])TJEclu(b)-3(o)-3(v)

or other cryptic attire cannot be worn during exams, earphones may not be used during an exam, and students will be required to sit in every other seat. Students are not permitted to leave the classroom during an exam once it has begun (unless they are finished), and any students doing so will earn a zero (0) for that exam. **Once the first student has turned in their exam, no students arriving late after this time will be permitted to take the exam.**

Exam I	50 points
Exam II	75 points
Exam III	100 points
Exam IV	125 points
Final	Will replace either: a) lowest exam; or b) exam for which replacement will result in the most points.

Given that all exams are semi-cumulative (i.e. include the major learning outcomes of previous chapters), if students are satisfied with their grades on the first four exams and all lab grades, the cumulative final is not mandatory. **NO EARLY FINALS WILL BE GIVEN UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES!** Having multiple finals on a single day does not constitute a special circumstance; it constitutes being a typical college student. Any student attempting to copy, take pictures of, or steal any test or quiz will receive an automatic F for the course and face disciplinary action for student misconduct.

LEASE PLAN ACCORDINGLY!!!

Withdrawing from the course: The last day to withdraw without penalty is Thursday, October 8th, 2015. If you do not officially withdraw, and instead just stop coming to class, you will receive an F for the course.

Academic conduct: Cheating / plagiarism will not be tolerated and can result in a failing grade for a quiz, assignment, exam, etc. or the entire class depending on the severity of the infraction. The Department of Biology has a plagiarism policy, which can be viewed at any time on the department homepage.

Privacy Act (FERPA): The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) prohibits the public posting of grades by social security number or in any manner personally identifiable to the individual student. No grades can be given over the telephone or email because positive identification cannot be made.

Students with disabilities: Students requiring special accommodations because of disability should discuss their needs with me as soon as possible. Those needing accommodations that are not registered with the Special Services Program must contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities located in Farber Hall. The phone numbers are 245-2498 (voice) and 219-1348 (tty).

Student Conduct:

- 1) Children, friends, or pets are not allowed in lecture or lab.
- 2) No active cell phones, iPods, tablets, or other electronic/multimedia devices in lecture or lab ***without instructor approval***. This rule is in effect at the time class starts, and all electronic devices, if present, should be placed in bags or otherwise out of site. Beginning Monday, August 24th (the 2nd week of school), students observed using such devices during lecture or lab without prior approval will lose 1% from their **final grade** (not the final point total) for the course for each offense (deductions shown on BlazeVIEW gradebook).
- 3) Students that wish to use the aforementioned devices for classroom purposes will be required to sign a statement describing their intended use, and any student observed using such devices for any other purposes will lose 2% from their **final grade** (not the final point total) for the course for each offense (deductions shown on BlazeVIEW gradebook).

scheduled office hours and does not arrive, that student will lose the opportunity to schedule appointments outside of established office hours in the future.

KNOWING THE SYLLABUS: In recent years, increasing numbers of students email professors with questions that are already answered in detail by their syllabi, primarily because many students simply do not read syllabi or they assume the rules outlined are merely suggestions. The most common student justification for such behavior is that they did not read the syllabus. However, in this class, ***a 1% reduction in the final grade (not the final point total) per each offense will be applied to any student emailing questions to the professor that are directed address by the syllabus.***

syllabus but simple confusion with the meaning of a particular

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE