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BIOL 340.01: Ecology

Erick P. Greene

University of Montana - Missoula, erick.Greene@mso.umt.edu

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ECOLOGY (BIOLOGY 340)

Fall Semester 2001

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Erick Greene: HS 205; 243-2179; egreene@selway.umt.edu

Office hours:

<u>TAs</u>	<u>e-mail</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Office hours</u>	<u>Location</u>
Maria Berger	mberger@selway.umt.edu			
Judy Perkins	jperkins@selway.umt.edu			
Kurt Reinhart	reinhart@selway.umt.edu			
Chris Templeton	ctemple@selway.umt.edu			

OVERVIEW

This class focuses on the main conceptual underpinnings of modern ecology. We will focus on three main hierarchical levels of ecological organization: 1) Individuals, 2) Populations, and 3) Communities. The class will review both theoretical models and approaches as well as important empirical studies.

The goals of this class are to help you:

- 1) Understand the historical development of some important ecological concepts, understand some current debates and unresolved ecological issues, and investigate how human populations and activities are influencing ecological processes.
- 2) Think critically, and use the scientific method to evaluate hypotheses. You will get practice using data to test predictions of contrasting hypotheses, evaluating the strength of your conclusions, and comparing your conclusions with those of others.
- 3) Develop your communication skills.

In addition to material covered in lectures, you will be responsible for about 30-40 pages of reading per week. In addition to the textbook, you will receive some important papers from the primary literature. Since the material builds upon previous topics, it is very important that you to keep up with the readings. If you fall behind, you will find it difficult to catch up. To help you with the course, we have dedicated 10 hours of office hours per week. If you have problems with class material or time conflicts, I urge you to talk with me as EARLY as possible. I will be better able to help you with problems if you talk with me as problems arise. If you cannot meet at any of the designated office hours, feel free to schedule an appointment at another time.

GRADING SCHEME

Your grade will be calculated from the following:

Test 1	20
Test 2	20
Final Exam	30
Assignments	<u>30</u>
Total	100

TEXT: ECOLOGY (5th Edition) by Charles J. Krebs

WEEK OF	LECTURE TOPIC	READING
5 Sept	Introduction and Approaches in Ecology	Chapter 1
10 Sept	Natural Selection and Evolution	Chapter 2
17 Sept	Determinants of Climate	Handouts
24 Sept	Physiological Ecology	Chapter 7
1 Oct	Population Ecology: Demography	Chapter 10
<u>11 Oct</u>	<u>TEST 1: 7 PM 215 McGill Hall</u>	
8 Oct	Population Growth	Chapter 11
15 Oct	Density Dependence and population dynamics	Chapter 11 & Handouts
22 Oct	Interspecific Competition	Chapter 12
29 Oct	Predation	Chapter 13
5 Nov	Biological Communities	Chapter 20
<u>8 Nov</u>	<u>TEST 2: 7 PM, 215 McGill Hall</u>	
12 Nov	Holiday	
14 Nov	Biological Communities	Chapter 20
21-23 Nov	Travel day and Thanksgiving	
26 Nov	Biodiversity	Chapter 22
3 Dec	Disturbance and non-equilibrium Communities	Chapter 24
10 Dec	Summary	
<u>Dec 18</u>	<u>**FINAL EXAM** 8-10 AM McGill Hall 215</u>	

PLAGIARISM POLICY

Although I encourage you to work collaboratively with others in this class, the work you hand in must be your own. For example, in the demography assignments, it makes sense to work with others on the math, but the answers you hand in must be in your own words. I remind you of the official University policy on plagiarism: "Plagiarism is the representing of another's work as one's own. It is a particularly intolerable offense in the academic community and is strictly forbidden. Students who plagiarize may fail the course and may be remanded to Academic Court for possible suspension or expulsion (See Student Conduct Code section of this catalog). Students must always be very careful to acknowledge any kind of borrowing that is included in their work. This means not only borrowed wording but also ideas. Acknowledgment of whatever is not one's own original work is the proper and honest use of sources. Failure to acknowledge whatever is not one's own original work is plagiarism." (From The University of Montana 1998-1999 catalog, p. 20).