Fall 9-1-2001

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:

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<th>TAs</th>
<th>e-mail</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Office hours</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maria Berger</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mberger@selway.umt.edu">mberger@selway.umt.edu</a></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judy Perkins</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jperkins@selway.umt.edu">jperkins@selway.umt.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kurt Reinhart</td>
<td><a href="mailto:reinhart@selway.umt.edu">reinhart@selway.umt.edu</a></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Templeton</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ctemple@selway.umt.edu">ctemple@selway.umt.edu</a></td>
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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 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 | 30 |

Total 100
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

11 Oct    **TEST 1: 7 PM 215 McGill Hall**

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

8 Nov     **TEST 2: 7 PM, 215 McGill Hall**

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                                 
Dec 18    **FINAL EXAM** 8-10 AM McGill Hall 215

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).