

Valdosta State University
Department of Biology, College of Arts and Sciences
BIOL 3250 Ecology and Evolution: Sections E & F
Lecture and Lab Syllabus, Fall 2014

Instructor: Dr. Cy L. Mott

Office: #1212 Bailey Science Center

Office Hours: Tuesday 12:00 – 1:00 P. M., Wednesday 10:00 – 11:00 A. M. or by appointment

Phone: 229-333-7851

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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)

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 topics), 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 or steal a hard-copy of any test or quiz will receive an automatic F for the entire course and face disciplinary action for student misconduct.

Quizzes (50 points): Throughout the semester, six lecture quizzes dealing with the vocabulary from the textbook will be administered, with the lowest quiz score being dropped.

Withdrawing from the course: The last day to withdraw without penalty is Thursday, October 9, 2014. 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 the 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 August 25th (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). Students using electronic devices in class will not be permitted to utilize the last row of the classroom.
- 4) Each homework assignment will have a set number of days during which it can be completed, and students will always . Online assignments any reason students may provide for failing to complete an assignment. In addition, no student will be provided early access to online assignments.
- 5) cheat sheets, electronic devices, etc. There will be no first warning, and I will recommend

NEVER, EVER, EVER, EVER EMAIL ME TO ASK WHAT YOU MISSED IN LECTURE OR LAB IF YOU ARE ABSENT; IT IS YOUR JOB TO CONSULT WITH CLASSMATES AND DETERMINE WHAT YOU MISSED!!!

Notes/Study Tips:

a)

should begin with Dear Dr. (insert name), then continue with your message written in

Realize that many older people (i.e. your professors) are not

allow up to three (3) business days before sending a follow-received response.

b) There is a documented positive relationship between how often you attend class and take advantage of someone

that you are paying to educate you?

c) Educators recommend studying 2-3 hours per week for each credit hour, which means you should be studying 8-12 a week for this class, not counting the time spent in class. Without fail, the number one thing students say when describing why they did not achieve the academic goal they had

d)

e it down anyways, just to be sure. If your instructor talks too

what you need out of it.

e)

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Reading	Lab Activity
19Aug	Course Introduction: Ecology, Evolution, and Scientific Inquiry	1	NO LAB
21-Aug			
26Aug	Variation as the Basis for Selection and Evolution	2	Natural Selection Simulation
28			