

Course Syllabus, Vernal Term 2016 C.E. (Last updated 13 January 2016 C.E.)

LSC322: Fundamentals of Ecology Laboratory

Section Number 13491

13 January - 27 April 2016 C.E.

Laboratory: W 15:00-17:45 CLCC367

Course Description:

This is an investigational field course on fundamental concepts in ecology. Pre/Co-requisites: LSC 320 or BIO 320 (with C or better if completed)

Instructor Information:

Dr. Ty C.M. Hoffman

ty@asu.edu

Office Hours: FAB N181E, T 09:25 - 10:25; W 13:40 - 14:40; and by appointment via email

Course Website:

As stated on Blackboard, you will be using my own (non-Blackboard) website. The URL for the general site is:

<http://www.public.asu.edu/~thoffman>

From that site, you can find the link to your specific section. Be sure to bookmark the site. You are REQUIRED to check the website daily, even if nothing changes. The website includes (or will include) various resources to help you succeed. It is also where official announcements will be posted (whether I make those announcements in class or not). Failure to notice an announcement posted on the website will not be a valid excuse, and it will not prevent you from losing points because of ignorance of a requirement, so check the website frequently.

Course Requirements

Some laboratory activities will require outdoor physical exertion, including walking on and off of trails. These activities are a necessary part of studying ecology. Students should dress appropriately for fieldwork. Long pants, long-sleeved shirts and a wide brimmed hat are recommended. Closed-toed, comfortable hiking shoes are mandatory. Transportation to and from the field sites is the responsibility of the students. Bring plenty of water for all field exercises. If you have a medical condition that places you at an increased risk of harm, please bring documentation and suggestions for minimizing risk.

Attendance:

You are required to attend every laboratory session. I do not grant you any points simply for attending, but you will certainly lose points for not attending, and there are no make-up laboratory activities. I also expect you to appear in the laboratory early enough so that you are completely ready to begin the day's activity at the scheduled beginning of class. Tardiness is rude and disruptive, and it will result in loss of points. If you are unable to make it to class on time, then you have enrolled in the wrong section, and you should withdraw.

Rules Consent Form:

You will receive no credit for any portion of this course until you submit the electronic Rules Consent Form via the course website. I cannot overstress the importance of carefully reading, understanding, and obeying the form. **Casually signing the form without fully understanding its content can easily result in a score of zero, and that happens every term. I do not want you to be yet another student who finds that out the hard way.**

Assessment:

There are no examinations in this class. Instead, grades will be based solely on laboratory attendance and completion of the following assignments:

- Readings: You are expected to read relevant chapters of the lecture (BIO320) text or similar general ecology text as well any journal articles that are assigned and posted online.
- Writings: Students are responsible for several laboratory write-ups, worksheets, and other written assignments. Laboratory reports will take the form of a complete or partial scientific paper (with abstract, introduction, materials & methods, results, and discussion). Field notes will be required for one activity.
- On-line quizzes: You will be required to complete an on-line quiz before each meeting begins in order to receive credit. These will be administered through Blackboard.
- Independent Project: Students will conduct an independent project (in groups) for the last portion of the term. This research will involve some aspect of ecology. The results of the student project will be presented in the form of a 10-minute oral presentation (as a group) to the class. In addition, each student will individually write a complete research paper about the project. More specific instructions for the independent project will be provided elsewhere.

I will provide slots on Blackboard for optional plagiarism checks. These will be separate from the slot for submitting the assignments to be graded. **Take this very seriously, because I am going to take all instances of plagiarism very seriously.**

Schedule of Laboratory Exercises:

Week	Date	Laboratory Exercise Topic	Meeting Location	Assignments Due*
01	13 Jan	Course Introduction; Laboratory Safety	CLCC367	
02	20 Jan	Introduction to Science; Hypothesis Testing & Statistics	CLCC367	Worksheet
03	27 Jan	Natural Selection & Evolution	CLCC367	Worksheet
04	03 Feb	Temperature physiology	CLCC367	Write-up: Methods + Results
05	10 Feb	A Walk in the Park	Piestewa Peak Preserve	Write-up: Field Notes
06	17 Feb	Animal Behavior: Foraging and Risk	CLCC367	Write-up: Introduction
07	24 Feb	Vertebrate Population Distribution, Part 1	CLCC367, outdoors on campus	Animal Behavior Worksheet
08	02 Mar	Vertebrate Population Distribution, Part 2	Piestewa Peak Preserve	Write-up: Results + Discussion
09	09 Mar	Vernal Hiatus	No Meeting	
10	16 Mar	Community Ecology: Plant Diversity	Piestewa Peak Preserve	Write-up: Complete Report (due 31 March)
11	23 Mar	Competition: Allelopathy	CLCC367	Worksheet
12	30 Mar	Proposal for Independent Project	CLCC367	Project Proposal due on this date
13	06 Apr	Work on Independent Project	No Meeting	
14	13 Apr	Soil Ecology	CLCC367, outdoors on campus	Worksheet
15	20 Apr	Consultation about Independent Project	varies	Make appointment by this date
16	27 Apr	Ten-minute Presentations	CLCC367	Final Project Papers due

*Unless otherwise indicates each assignment is due at the beginning of the following meeting

Disclaimer:

Course content and point allocation may vary from this outline to meet the needs of this particular group.

Point Distribution:

The scores for LSC322 will be allotted as follows:

Pre-laboratory quizzes	12%
Short write-ups	18%
Complete Laboratory Report	12%
Field Notes	5%
Worksheets	29%
Proposal for Independent Project	1%
Independent Project	23%

Grading Scale:

The minimum scores for the possible letter grades are listed below.

A+	97%
A	93%
A-	90%
B+	87%
B	83%
B-	80%
C+	77%
C	70%
D	60%

Course/Instructor Evaluation

The course/instructor evaluation for this course will be conducted online 7-10 days before the last official day of classes of each semester or summer session. Your response(s) to the course/instructor are anonymous and will not be returned to your instructor until after grades have been submitted. The use of a course/instructor evaluation is an important process that allows our college to (1) help faculty improve their instruction, (2) help administrators evaluate instructional quality, (3) ensure high standards of teaching, and (4) ultimately improve instruction and student learning over time. Completion of the evaluation is not required for you to pass this class and will not affect your grade, but your cooperation and participation in this process is critical. About two weeks before the class finishes, watch for an e-mail with "**NCIAS Course/Instructor Evaluation**" in the subject heading. The email will be sent to your official ASU e-mail address.

Withdrawals: The instructor will **NOT** withdraw students for any reason. Specifically, students should be aware that non-attendance will **NOT** automatically result in their being dropped from the course. Therefore, if a student does not attend class during the first week or for any extended period of time during the semester, they should not presume that they are no longer registered. **It is the student's responsibility to be aware of their registration status.**

Please note the following dates:

Session Date & Deadlines	Session A (7 Week Session) January 11-March 1, 2016	Session B (7.5 Week Session) March 14-April 29, 2016	Session C (15 Week Session) January 11-April 29, 2016 (Final Exams May 2-7, 2016)
Classes Begin	January 11, 2016	March 14, 2016	January 11, 2016
Drop/Add Deadline (w/out College approval)	January 12, 2016	March 15, 2016	January 17, 2016
Tuition & Fees 100% Refund Deadline	January 17, 2016	March 20, 2016	January 24, 2016
Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Observed – University Closed	January 18, 2016		
University 21st Day	February 1, 2016	April 4, 2016	February 1, 2016
Academic Status Report #1 – Students can view ASRs in MyASU within 24 hours after the last reporting day	January 21-25, 2016	March 24-28, 2016	February 8-15, 2016
Academic Status Report #2 - Students can view ASRs in MyASU within 24 hours after the last reporting day	N/A	N/A	March 22-29, 2016
Course Withdrawal Deadline	January 29, 2016	April 1, 2016	April 3, 2016
Complete Session Withdrawal Deadline	March 1, 2016	April 29, 2016	April 29, 2016
Spring Break – Classes Excused	March 6-13, 2016		
Deadline to Apply for Graduation	February 15, 2016		
Classes End/Last Day to Process transactions	March 1, 2016	April 29, 2016	April 29, 2016
Final Exams	Last day of classes	Last day of classes	May 2-7, 2016
Final Grades Due	March 4, 2016	May 2-9, 2016	May 2-9, 2016
Commencement (Graduate and Undergraduate)	May 9, 2016		
Degree Conferral Date	May, 9, 2016		

Any withdrawal transaction must be completed by the deadline date in accordance to the appropriate session at the registrar's office. If not, you will still be officially enrolled and you will receive a grade based on your work completed.

*As part of a complete session withdrawal a student must withdraw from all classes in a session. Beginning the first day of classes, undergraduate students are required to work with a Student Retention Coordinator to facilitate the withdrawal process. Please refer to <http://students.asu.edu/StudentRetention>

For additional information about ASU's withdrawal policy and the possible consequences of withdrawing from a class, contact Registration Services or your academic counselor.

Students are responsible for their registration status!

The Grade of Incomplete: A grade of incomplete will be awarded only in the event that a documented emergency or illness prevents a student who is doing acceptable work from completing a small percentage of the course requirements at the end of the semester. The guidelines in the current general ASU catalog regarding a grade of incomplete will be strictly followed. **A grade of incomplete will NOT be awarded unless there is documented evidence of extreme personal or immediate family hardship.** Changes in work hours, child-care emergencies, or other similar personal problems will not be approved as reasons for awarding incompletes. The Director of the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences must approve all incomplete grade requests.

Reasonable Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Disability Resource Center (DRC) provides information and services to students with any documented disability who are attending ASU. Individualized program strategies and recommendations are available for each student as well as current information regarding community resources. Students also may have access to specialized equipment and supportive services and should contact the instructor for accommodations that are necessary for course completion.

Academic Integrity and Code of Conduct:

As defined in the *ASU Student Academic Integrity Policy*: <http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity>.

Each student has an obligation to act with honesty and integrity, and to respect the rights of others in carrying out all academic assignments. A student may be found to have violated this obligation and to have engaged in academic dishonesty if during or in connection with any academic evaluation, he or she:

- Engages in any form of academic deceit;
- Refers to materials or sources or employs devices (e.g., audio recorders, crib sheets, calculators, solution manuals, or commercial research services) not authorized by the instructor for use during the academic evaluation;
- Possesses, buys, sells, obtains, or uses, without appropriate authorization, a copy of any materials intended to be used for academic evaluation in advance of its administration;
- Acts as a substitute for another person in any academic evaluation;
- Uses a substitute in any academic evaluation;
- Depends on the aid of others to the extent that the work is not representative of the student's abilities, knowing or having good reason to believe that this aid is not authorized by the instructor;
- Provides inappropriate aid to another person, knowing or having good reason to believe the aid is not authorized by the instructor;
- Engages in plagiarism;

- Permits his or her work to be submitted by another person without the instructor's authorization; or
- Attempts to influence or change any academic evaluation or record for reasons having no relevance to class achievement.

LSC322 follows the ASU Academic Integrity Policy in the administration of all course examinations and assignments. Violations of the University Academic Integrity policy will not be ignored. Penalties include reduced or no credit for submitted work, a failing grade in the class, a note on your official transcript that shows you were punished for cheating, suspension, expulsion and revocation of already awarded degrees. The university requires that the implementation of any of these penalties for violations of the academic integrity policy be reported to the Dean's office. The Integrity Policy defines the process to be used if the student wishes to appeal this action.

In LSC322 you are expected to follow the *ASU Student Code of Conduct* (<http://students.asu.edu/srr/code>) especially when communicating with your peers, instructors, and teaching assistants. Violations of the student code of conduct may result in withdrawal from the class.

Final Exam Make-up Policy: The final exam schedule listed in the Schedule of Classes will be strictly followed. Exceptions to the schedule and requests for make-up examinations can be granted only by the director of the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences for one of the following reasons:

- 1) religious observances
- 2) the student has more than three exams scheduled on the same day
- 3) two finals are scheduled to occur at the same time

Make-up exams will **NOT** be given for reasons of non refundable airline tickets, vacation plans, work schedules, weddings, family reunions, or other such activities. Students should consult the final exam schedule before making end-of-semester travel plans.

If there is a last-minute personal or medical emergency, the student may receive a grade of Incomplete and make-up the final within one calendar month. The student must provide written documentation and be passing the class at the time to receive an Incomplete. A signed "Request for Grade of Incomplete" must be submitted by the student and approved by the student's instructor and the Director of the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences.

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus as needed.

If you find it necessary to leave a note for this instructor, please contact the administrative reception desk of the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences located at FAB North Level 1 room N101-1.

Title IX:

Is a federal law that provides that no person be excluded on the basis of sex from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. Both Title IX and university policy make clear that sexual violence and harassment based on sex is prohibited. An individual who believes they have been subjected to sexual violence or harassed on the basis of sex can seek support, including counseling and academic support, from the university. If you or someone you know has been harassed on the basis of sex or sexually assaulted, you can find information and resources at <https://sexualviolenceprevention.asu.edu/faqs>

As a mandated reporter, I am obligated to report any information I become aware of regarding alleged acts of sexual discrimination, including sexual violence and dating violence. ASU

Counseling Services, <https://eoss.asu.edu/counseling>, is available if you wish discuss any concerns confidentially and privately.

Policy against Threatening Behavior:

In the classroom and out students are required to conduct themselves in a manner that promotes an environment that is safe and conducive to learning and conducting other university-related business. All incidents and allegations of violent or threatening conduct by an ASU student will be reported to the ASU Police Department (ASU PD) and the Office of the Dean of Students. Such incidents will be dealt with in accordance with the policies and procedures described in Section 104-02 of the Student Services Manual (<http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/ssm/ssm104-02.html>).

Potentially Offensive Content:

A notification such as the following should be included in the syllabus if appropriate for the class in question.

If you find any of the content of his class offensive, please bring your concerns to the instructor immediately.

Power Outage:

In the event of a campus power outage or other event affecting the ability of the University to deliver classes, any decision to cancel classes will be announced using the ASU emergency notification system. For this reason, it is imperative that students register with the ASU emergency notification system at: <https://cfo.asu.edu/emergency-alert>. In cases in which a limited number of buildings are affected, students should check the university website and/or call the School office at (602) 543-6050.

Emergency Evacuation Plan:

Students should be aware of the evacuation route posted on the exit door of each classroom. Students who cannot walk down stairs should notify the instructor as early in the course as possible so the instructor can provide information regarding the location of the designated meeting area on each upper floor of the building (marked with a blue sign that states Emergency Evacuation Response Area).