

BIOL 3250 Ecology and Evolution
SPRING 2018 - Syllabus

COURSE INFORMATION:

- a. Title: Ecology and Evolution
- b. Instructor: Dr. Timothy Henkel (tphenkel@valdosta.edu)
- c. Office:

GRADING PROCEDURES: Letter grades will be assigned based on the following tables:

| Course Component | % of Course Grade |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Exams | 60% |
| In Class Activities/Quizzes | 15% |
| Lab Assignments | 25% |
| Total | 100% |

Final Letter Grade

A: 90 – 100%

B: 80 – 89%

C: 70 – 79%

D: 60 – 69%

F: < 60%

Exams: There are four exams scheduled throughout the semester; each will cover the material from the end of the previous exam through the current exam. Each exam will be weighted equally and comprise 60% of your final grade. While exams are not labeled as cumulative, concepts that are connected throughout the course are fair material for exams. The last exam is scheduled during the final exam period of the course.

In Class Activities and Quizzes: Points will be obtained through in-class written assignments and quizzes, all of which are possible during any given class session. You must be present to obtain these points.

Lab Assignments: Quizzes and written assignments will be given during your registered lab section. All material must be turned in within the first 10 minutes of class on the due date. Late work is penalized 10% every day it is late.

There will be NO UNEXUSED MAKE-UPS and NO EXTRA CREDIT!

ATTENDANCE POLICY: You are expected to attend all scheduled course activities, and active participation is part of your course grade. Because of the nature and structure of the class, attendance is vital to your success in the course. We will strictly adhere to VSU's policy on attendance which states: "A student who misses more than 20% of the scheduled classes of a course will be subject to receiving a failing grade in the course" (Undergraduate Catalog 2011-2012, p. 89).

LAB DAYS: You are required to attend your registered lab period and must be present from beginning to the end of the lab in order to be considered present. You are also expected to actively engage in lab activities and fully support and complete any individual and group assignments.

Note that labs will include work 'in the field' – ie outside. When we are traveling outdoors, you must have appropriate footwear (close toed shoes and socks) and pants. You may wish to bring insect repellent, hat/sun screen and water. Individuals not wearing appropriate field clothes are endangering themselves and therefore will not be allowed in the field and not receive credit.

COMMUNICATION:

Email: Email is the simplest way to contact me outside of class and is the quickest way for me to contact you as well. You are required to check and maintain your Valdosta State University email account. I will only communicate with you through this official email account.

Blazeview: We will be using Blazeview D2L throughout the semester as a tool for sharing information. I will post course notes after each class to the website, as well as provide additional resources, readings, and homework assignments. All official course information is located on Blazeview and students are expected to

Notes on emailing your professor:

In order to get a reply to your emails you must do the following in your email communication:

Include your course number and section in the subject line of any email.

Communicate as you would at work and in a professional manner. This includes using proper grammar and spelling, a greeting and salutation, and be sure to include your full name at the end of all emails.

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY: Cheating, plagiarism (submitting another person's material as one's own, or doing work for another person which will receive academic credit) are all impermissible. This includes the use of unauthorized books, notebooks, or other sources in order to secure or give help during an assignment or exam, the unauthorized copying of examinations, assignments, reports, or term papers, or the presentation of unacknowledged material as if it were your own work. Computer software will be used to ensure plagiarism does not take place in this course. Students are responsible for knowing, understanding and complying with the VSU Student Code of Conduct, in Appendix A of the Student Handbook

(<https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/student-conduct-office/documents/student-code-of-conduct.pdf>)

If substantial evidence exists for a violation of this policy, *the student(s) involved will receive a grade of 'F' for the course* and an official record will be filed following the Academic Integrity Response along with a letter to the Dean of Students (<http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/AcademicHonestyPoliciesandProcedures.shtml>).

CLASSROOM CONDUCT: A classroom policy will be developed by the course during the first week and will be the standard for behavior in the class. The policy will be posted to Blazeview and enforced during class sessions.

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