

TENTATIVE SYLLABUS

BIOL 4327

ANIMAL ECOLOGY

Fall 2016

Tuesday and Thursday 10:30–11:50; Chemistry and Computer Science Building 1.0204

Instructor:

Markus J. Peterson, Biology 406

Phone: 915-747-5354; Fax: 915-747-6808; Email: mjpeterson@utep.edu

Course Description:

Animal Ecology addresses the structure and function of animal populations and communities; the course emphasizes population dynamics, trophic patterns, inter-specific interactions, and conservation.

Prerequisites:

Ecology (BIOL 3316) and Calculus I (MATH 1411), each with a “C” or better.

Course Objectives:

Upon course completion, students will understand the hierarchical structure of ecosystems (ecological study) and the concepts of population ecology, including population interactions in ecosystems. They also will be able to use this information to ground plans to manipulate wildlife abundance in directions human society favors and influence biological diversity within an ecosystem management framework.

Required Text:

Begon, M., C. R. Townsend, and J. L. Harper. 2006. Ecology: From individuals to ecosystems. Fourth edition. Blackwell Publishers, Boston, Massachusetts, USA. (ISBN: 1405111178).

Readings:

See page three for required readings from the textbook. I may make any additional required readings available as the semester unfolds.

Grading:

The two midterm lecture examinations are worth 200 points each; the comprehensive final is worth 300 points (total = 700 points). Open-note quizzes are worth 200 points. Class participation (includes attendance; 100 points) brings the course total to 1000 points. See page three for relevant due dates.

<i>Scale:</i>	90-100%	= A	<i>Point Distribution:</i>	Exams	70%
	80-89%	= B		Quizzes	20%
	70-79%	= C		Participation	10%
	60-69%	= D			
	<60%	= F			

Important UTEP Dates:

22 August	First day of fall semester classes
22–25 August	Late registration
23 August	First day BIOL-4327
05 September	Labor Day holiday
07 September	Fall Census Day
28 October	Fall drop/withdrawal deadline
24–25 November	Thanksgiving holiday
01 December	Last day of classes
02 December	Dead day
08 December	Final exam period—10:00–12:45
10 December	Commencement

Examinations:

- You must take examinations during class on the dates listed in the syllabus. Exam format may be multiple choice, short answer, mathematical problem solving, essay, etc.
- No “makeup” examinations will be given.
- An exam may be taken early if you must miss class for a university approved reason. Written proof must be provided.

Quizzes:

- *Numerous* open-note quizzes will be given during the semester.
- Quiz content will be based on recent or current lectures
- The open-note format allows you to determine whether your note-taking is effective, whether you are prepared for class, and at least some of the topics I consider important.

Expectations:

- Attend *every* class; there is no room for random absences because each lecture builds on previous work. Attendance for the entire class period will form part of your class participation grade.
- Be on time. I expect you to be in your seat when the class *begins*. Punctuality will form part of your class participation grade.
- Read assigned materials *before* class. This, as evidenced by your participation in class, will form part of your class participation grade.
- Participate in all class discussions (see above).

Academic Integrity:

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and considered a violation of the UTEP *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. It includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. More information on academic dishonesty can be found at <http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=23785>. All forms of academic dishonesty will be reported and result in the allocation of an automatic failing final grade in this course.

Civility:

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner in class. Text messaging and the use of cell phones while lectures are in progress will not be tolerated. Students should voice concerns to me via email.

Disabilities:

If a student has or suspects s/he has a disability that needs accommodation, s/he should contact Disabled Student Services (DSS) office at 747-5148 or dss@utep.edu, or go to Room 106 Union East Building. Student are responsible for presenting me with any DSS accommodation letters and instructions.

Military Statement:

If you are in the military and anticipate deployment, contact me as soon as possible.

Need help with academic, career, or personal issues? These people will help.

University Counseling Center	202 Union West	747-5302
Center for Accommodations and Support Services	106 Union East	747-5148
University Career Center	103 Union West	747-5640

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MONTH	DATE	TOPIC	TEXT PAGES
August	23	Introduction, syllabus, class format, survey, and pretest	
	25	↓ Hierarchy Theory	
September	30	Populations: Intraspecific Competition	132–162
	1	Dispersal, Dormancy, and Metapopulations	163–185
	6	Applications: Restoration, Biosecurity, and Conservation	186–223
	8	<i>Flex day</i>	
	13	Population Interactions: Interspecific Competition	227–265
	15	Nature of Predation	266–296
	20	Population Dynamics of Predation	297–325
	22	Decomposers and Detritivores	326–346
	27	<i>Flex day</i>	
	29	Exam I	
October	4	Parasitism and Disease	347–380
	6	Symbiosis and Mutualism	381–409
	11	Abundance	410–438
	13	Applications: Pest Control and Harvest Management	439–466
	18	Applications: Pest Control and Harvest Management	
	20	<i>Flex day</i>	
	25	Communities and Ecosystems: Nature of Community	467–498
November	27	Nature of Community	
	1	Exam II	
	3	Influence of Population Interactions on Community Structure	550–577
	8	Food Webs	578–601
	10	Patterns of Species Richness	602–632
	15	Applications: Based on Succession, Food Webs, Ecosystem Function, Biodiversity	633–658
	17	<i>Flex day</i>	
	22	<i>To be announced later</i>	
	24	Thanksgiving Holiday	
	29	<i>To be announced later</i>	
December	1	<i>To be announced later</i>	
	8	Final Exam (10:00–12:45)	

Boldface type signifies major topics.

NOTE: This tentative syllabus is ‘tentative’: It simply lists general topics that will be covered; dates and specific topics may change.