

TENTATIVE SYLLABUS
BIOL 4327-001
ANIMAL ECOLOGY
Fall 2020

Tuesday and Thursday 10:30–11:50; **Online during scheduled times.**

Instructor:

Markus J. Peterson, Biology 406
Phone: 915-747-5354
Email: mjpeterson@utep.edu
Discussion board threads associated with the class on Blackboard

Course Description:

Animal Ecology addresses 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 four 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 229 points each; the comprehensive final is worth 343 points (total for exams = 800 points). Class participation (*includes attendance*; 200 points), which brings the course total to 1,000 points. See page four for relevant due dates.

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

Important UTEP Dates:

24 August	First day of fall semester classes
24–28 August	Late registration
25 August	First day BIOL-4327
07 September	Labor Day holiday
09 September	Fall Census Day
30 October	Fall drop/withdrawal deadline
13 November	Deadline to submit candidates' names for commencement program
26–27 November	Thanksgiving holiday
03 December	Last day of classes
04 December	Dead day
10 December	Final exam period—10:00–12:45
12–13 December	Commencement

Examinations:

- You must take examinations during the class period on the dates listed in the syllabus. Exam format may be multiple choice, short answer, mathematical problem solving, essay, etc.
- Because of the electronic course format required by UTEP given health risks associated with the novel coronavirus pandemic, we will use the Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor system for exams.
 - Thus, you must have a video webcam to take the examinations.
 - See the following for details:
https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/ServiceCatalog/BB_Tool_RespondusLockdown.html
- 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.

No Quizzes this Semester:

- In past semesters, I employed numerous in-class open-note quizzes—which served as (1) a check on student’s note taking skills, (2) exam preparation, and (3) a way to improve a student’s course grade.
- Due to the electronic course format required by UTEP this semester, numerous in-class quizzes are not practical.
 - Instead, grading this semester is as explained under Grading, above. Because 20% of the grade is based on class participation, which in turn is largely based on attendance, participation serves as a way for students to voluntarily improve their grade.
 - Similarly, I will provide lists of sample thought questions on Blackboard to enable students to evaluate their (1) note-taking skills and (2) preparation for exams.

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
University Career Center

106 Union East
103 Union West

747-5148
747-5640

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MONTH	DATE	TOPIC	CHAP: PAGES
August	25	Introduction, syllabus, class format, survey, and pretest	
	27	Hierarchy Theory; Critical Thinking	
September	1	Populations: Intraspecific Competition	5: 132–162
	3	Dispersal, Dormancy, and Metapopulations	6: 163–185
	8	Applications: Restoration, Biosecurity, and Conservation	7: 186–223
	10	<i>Flex day</i>	
	15	Population Interactions: Interspecific Competition	8: 227–265
	17	Nature of Predation	9: 266–296
	22	Population Dynamics of Predation	10: 297–325
	24	Decomposers and Detritivores	11: 326–346
	29	<i>Flex day</i>	
October	1	Exam I	
	6	Parasitism and Disease	12: 347–380
	8	Symbiosis and Mutualism	13: 381–409
	13	Abundance	14: 410–438
	15	Applications: Pest Control and Harvest Management	15: 439–466
	20	Applications: Pest Control and Harvest Management	
	22	<i>Flex day</i>	
	27	Communities and Ecosystems: Nature of Community	16: 467–498
	29	Nature of Community	
November	3	Influence of Population Interactions on Community Structure	19: 550–577
	5	Exam II	
	10	Food Webs	20: 578–601
	12	Patterns of Species Richness	21: 602–632
	17	Applications: Based on Succession, Food Webs, Ecosystem Functions, Biodiversity	22: 633–658
	19	<i>Flex day</i>	
	24	<i>To be announced later</i>	
	26	Thanksgiving Holiday	
December	1	<i>To be announced later</i>	
	3	<i>To be announced later</i>	
	10	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.