

TENTATIVE SYLLABUS
BIOL 4327-001
ANIMAL ECOLOGY
Fall 2021

Tuesday and Thursday 9:00–10:20; Education Building 202

Instructor:

Markus J. Peterson, Biology 406
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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 200 points each; the comprehensive final is worth 300 points (total for exams = 700 points). Open-note quizzes are worth 200 points. Class participation (*includes attendance*; 100 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	70%
	80-89%	= B		Quizzes	20%
	70-79%	= C		Participation	10%
	60-69%	= D			
	<60%	= F			

Important UTEP Dates:

23 August	First day of fall semester classes
23–27 August	Late registration
24 August	First day BIOL-4327
06 September	Labor Day holiday
08 September	Fall Census Day
29 October	Fall drop/withdrawal deadline
12 November	Deadline to submit candidates' names for degree conferral
25–26 November	Thanksgiving holiday
02 December	Last day of classes
03 December	Dead day
07 December	Final exam period—10:00–12:45
11–12 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.
- 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. The quizzes serve as (1) a check on student’s note taking skills, (2) exam preparation, and (3) a way to improve a student’s course grade.

- 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.
- No “makeup” quizzes will be given (missed quizzes will receive grade of zero points).
- You will be able to drop at least one (1) quiz depending upon how many were given.

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).

Official UTEP Novel Coronavirus Precaution Statement

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to covidaction@utep.edu, so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID-19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit <https://www.epstrong.org/>.

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 Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) office at 915-747-5148 or cass@utep.edu, or go to Room 106 Union East Building. Students are responsible for presenting me with any CASS 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	CHAP: PAGES
August	24	Introduction, syllabus, class format, survey, and pretest	
	26	Hierarchy Theory; Critical Thinking	
September	31	Populations: Intraspecific Competition	5: 132–162
	2	Dispersal, Dormancy, and Metapopulations	6: 163–185
	7	Applications: Restoration, Biosecurity, and Conservation	7: 186–223
	9	<i>Flex day</i>	
	14	Population Interactions: Interspecific Competition	8: 227–265
	16	Nature of Predation	9: 266–296
	21	Population Dynamics of Predation	10: 297–325
	23	Decomposers and Detritivores	11: 326–346
October	28	<i>Flex day</i>	
	30	Exam I	
	5	Parasitism and Disease	12: 347–380
	7	Symbiosis and Mutualism	13: 381–409
	12	Abundance	14: 410–438
	14	Applications: Pest Control and Harvest Management	15: 439–466
	19	Applications: Pest Control and Harvest Management	
	21	<i>Flex day</i>	
	26	Communities and Ecosystems: Nature of Community	16: 467–498
	28	Nature of Community	
November	2	Influence of Population Interactions on Community Structure	19: 550–577
	4	Exam II	
	9	Food Webs	20: 578–601
	11	Patterns of Species Richness	21: 602–632
	16	Applications: Based on Succession, Food Webs, Ecosystem Functions, Biodiversity	22: 633–658
	18	<i>Flex day</i>	
	23	<i>To be announced later</i>	
	25	Thanksgiving Holiday	
December	30	<i>To be announced later</i>	
	2	<i>To be announced later</i>	
	7	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.