

BIOLOGY 221
ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION
SPRING 2010

Time/Place: 9:30 AM MWF
G15 Life Sciences Building

Instructors:	Dr. Bill Peterjohn	Dr. Jim McGraw
	5214 Life Sciences 293-5201 x 31510 bpj@wvu.edu	5204 Life Sciences 293-5201 x 31532 jmcgraw@wvu.edu

Office hours:	Dr. Peterjohn	Dr. McGraw
	1:30 - 3:00 PM MW <i>Other hours by appointment.</i>	1:30 - 3:00 PM MW (last half of semester) <i>Other hours by appointment.</i>

Books: The following textbook is needed for this class and is available in the bookstore:
Elements of Ecology by Thomas M. Smith and Robert Leo Smith (seventh edition)

Web Site: Course materials can be found at the Bio. 221 web site. The address for this site is:
<http://www.as.wvu.edu/biology/bio21site/>. Some of the documents found at this site will be password protected. The password to open these documents will be given in class.

Exams: There will be three **Wednesday evening** mid-term exams and a comprehensive final exam given in room G15 of the Life Sciences Building. The dates, locations, and times for each exam are given below along with the percentage that each component of your grade will count towards your final grade in the course.

Exam I	Wednesday, Feb. 10	G15 LSB	7:30 - 9:30 PM	18%
Exam II	Wednesday, Mar. 3	G15 LSB	7:30 - 9:30 PM	18%
Exam III	Wednesday, Apr. 7	G15 LSB	7:30 - 9:30 PM	18%
Final Exam	Tuesday, May 4	G15 LSB	8:00 - 10:00 AM	36%
Quizzes				5%
Attendance				<u>5%</u>
				100%

The exams will contain questions from the material covered in lecture, the assigned articles, and the study questions unless otherwise noted.

Quizzes: During the semester, about eight unannounced quizzes will be given in class. The quizzes will be short (ca. 3 questions) and used (in part) to encourage attendance.

Missing an exam: If you miss an examination, you will receive a grade of zero for that exam. If an exam is missed due to an **unavoidable** absence, you must present (**in person**) a convincing written statement explaining the reason for your absence **no later than 1 week after your return to class**. Your statement should note the dates missed and may include any documentation you may wish to provide. Students with an acceptable excuse (as determined by the instructors) can take a comprehensive make-up exam at the end of the semester or have their grade prorated (i.e., each exam taken will count proportionally more). The make-up exam will be an essay exam.

Missing a Quiz: If you miss a quiz, you will receive a grade of zero for that quiz. If a quiz is missed due to an **unavoidable** absence, you must present (**in person**) a convincing written statement explaining the reason for your absence **no later than 1 week after your return to class**. Your statement should note the dates missed and may include any documentation you may wish to provide. Students with an acceptable excuse (as determined by the instructors) will have their quiz grades prorated (i.e., each quiz taken will count proportionally more). No make-up quizzes are given.

Attendance: Attendance of all lectures is required. **More than two unexcused absences will result in the loss of one attendance point (out of a total of five) for every absence.** In cases where your grade for the course is near the cutoff value for the next highest grade, then your attendance will also be used as a consideration in deciding the final grade you receive. If you miss class due to an **unavoidable** absence, you must present **(in person)** a convincing written statement explaining the reason for your absence **no later than 1 week after your return to class.** Your statement should note the dates missed and may include any documentation you may wish to provide. Students with an acceptable excuse (as determined by the instructors) will not lose an attendance point for that absence. Your attendance will be assessed using a random selection of classes during which clicker questions were given – if you respond to the questions given that day, then you are considered to be in attendance. As a result, it is important that if your personal response device (i.e. your “clicker”) does not appear to be working then you should inform the instructor at the end of the class so they can record your attendance.

Grades: Letter grades are not assigned until the end of the course. Grades are based on the total number of points accumulated by the end of the semester and are determined using the following scale:

Grade	Percentage
A	84-100
B	72-83.9
C	58-71.9
D	48-57.9
F	<48

Extra Credit Opportunities: During the semester a limited number of extra credit opportunities (ECOs) may be offered. Each will count for 2% on the final exam grade and **no more than two ECOs can be completed by each student** (i.e. each student can receive no more than 4% on their final exam grade from extra credit). Details about these opportunities will be announced in class.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. As defined in section 3.1.1.3 of the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities of Students (1987 revision), academic dishonesty includes plagiarism, cheating and dishonest practices, and forgery, misrepresentation or fraud. The first occurrence of academic dishonesty will result in a zero being assigned to that component of the course (e.g., exam, quiz, etc.). A second occurrence of academic dishonesty will result in an F being assigned to the student for the entire course. A third instance will result in a student being assigned an unforgivable F for the entire course.

Special assistance: If you are learning, sensory or physically impaired and need assistance with the lectures, reading assignments, tests or labs, please contact one of us during regular office hours or by appointment and make appropriate arrangements with Disability Services (293-6700). The first week of the semester is the best time for these discussions. All matters will be confidential.

English as a second language: If English is your second language and you need assistance with the lectures, reading assignments or tests, please contact the instructor during office hours or by appointment. The first week of the semester is the best time for these discussions. All matters will be confidential.

Social justice: West Virginia University is committed to social justice. The instructors of this course concur with West Virginia University’s commitment to maintain a positive learning environment based upon communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. Our University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color or national origin. Suggestions as to how to further such an environment will be appreciated and given serious consideration.

Evacuation Plan for Room G15: In the event of an emergency, leave the classroom in an orderly manner. Those leaving from the back turn to the left after exiting the classroom. Those leaving from the middle of the classroom turn to the left or right after exiting. Those leaving from the front turn to the right after exiting the classroom. Leave the building through the nearest outside door. Once you’ve left the building, quickly move as far away as possible while avoiding parking lots. Do not congregate near the building or in parking lots.

Syllabus: This syllabus is issued for the convenience of the student and does not constitute a contract between the student and the instructors. The instructors reserve the right to change the syllabus at any time during the semester.