

PCB 3044 – Principles of Ecology – Summer A 2019

Meeting Time: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 9am – 10:50 am

Meeting Place: CB2 (Classroom Building 2), Room 0106

Course Description: This 3 credit course will examine the structure and function of ecological systems, including populations, communities, and ecosystems. Objectives for students include: (a) master major concepts and basic terminology of ecology, (b) understand how evolution and ecology complement each other, and (c) understand approaches of ecological study, including theory, observations, and experiments.

Course objectives:

1. Understand the basic principles of ecology as a cornerstone of a broad background in biology.
2. Learn some of the basic ecological terminology.
3. Appreciate and apply the theoretical concepts of ecology and the experimental evidence supporting them.
4. Become familiar with the scientific method as applied to ecological studies.
5. Gain an appreciation of ecology as a science and its role in understanding the human-nature interaction.

Course Prerequisites: BSC 2010C, BSC 2011C, and CHM 2045C.

Instructor:

Dr. Joshua King

Biology Building, Room 309C

Office Hours: M-Th 11:00 am -12:00 noon, or by appointment

Email: joshua.king@ucf.edu

Communication

All communications from me will be sent to your knights email account. You are responsible for checking your knights email on a regular basis. I always respond to email from students, however occasionally an email message may be missed. Talk to me in class if I do not respond to your email within 24 hours. Response time may be slower on weekends. As a matter of courtesy I expect you to identify yourself in any email you send.

Class website: The course website can be found in Webcourses and all relevant material can be found there. The syllabus is posted there as well as any announcements, so please make sure you consult with those resources before you decide to reach out to me with questions about schedule or grading.

Readings:

Readings, for the most part, are designed to coincide with and supplement the lecture component of the course. The order of reading assignments which generally follow the book chapter order is listed below. You are expected to have read the material prior to class.

Textbook

Cain, Bowman, and Hacker. 2018. *Ecology*, 4th ed. Sinauer Associates, Sunderland, MA. Available at Book Store. If you prefer, a digital version is available at <http://ebooks.sinauer.com>.

Behavior in class

It is assumed that all students will act in a mature manner in the classroom showing respect for their peers and the instructors. Any student who consistently distracts other students or the instructors will be removed from the course. Electronic devices must be on silent mode or turned off in the classroom. Laptops are to be used only for displaying the lecture slides and taking notes. **If you have any special needs that I should be aware of, please let me know as soon as possible. I am happy to make any arrangements that are necessary to be sure that everyone has an equal opportunity to learn and succeed.**

Grade Scale

The grading scale will be: 90-100 = **A**; 87-89 = **B+**; 80-86 = **B**; 77-79 = **C+**; 70-76 = **C**; 67-69 = **D+**; 60-66 = **D**; < 60 = **F**

Academic Dishonesty

Any form of cheating or academic dishonesty = automatic F and referral to The Office of Student Conduct for disciplinary action. Unless specifically permitted all electronic devices must be inaccessible during tests. Use or display of any unauthorized electronic device will result in a zero for the test and referral to the office of student conduct.

Grading

The grading for each individual in the course breaks down as follows:

Includes:

6 Exams @ 100 points each (total 600 points). Exams will be drawn from the book and lecture notes. All assigned reading and class discussion are fair game. Exams will consist of largely of multiple-choice questions. Dates are shown below in the schedule.

Grade Rounding Policy

The overall semester grade will not be rounded. There will be no exceptions to this policy and no other adjustments will be made.

Extra Credit:

You-Tube Video: Maximum possible = Up to 6 points added to your overall exam average. You have the opportunity to make a 1-2 minute video on any ecological topic covered in this course. The video may be done individually or in a group of up to 4 students (you select your own group of 4, all group members must be in the video, and will receive the same grade). The grading and requirements description is purposely vague. To earn any more than a point or two, the video must use a unique and captivating approach to illustrating and explaining one or more related ecological concepts or problems.

1. Due date: No later than Monday, June 17th at 11:59 pm. No late submissions accepted for any reason.
2. The content of the video must be factually correct and adhere to the UCF Golden Rule (no plagiarizing the work of others, etc.).
3. Only one video can be submitted per student for credit.
4. Videos should be submitted to YouTube and the correct link and all group members' first and last names emailed to me: joshua.king@ucf.edu.

Missed tests

If you miss one of tests 1-6, documentation is required to verify a legitimate reason for missing the test. If a properly documented excuse (e.g. from physician, coach, counselor, police, etc.) is provided, you will not take a make-up exam and your grade will be based upon the average of your other tests and the participation grade. If you miss a second or subsequent test you must again provide acceptable documented evidence (e.g. from doctor, police, etc.) that circumstances beyond your control prevented you from taking the test, or that you were required to participate in official University business. A doctor's note must be on letterhead with a contact phone number, and must indicate that a medical condition was treated. In the absence of acceptable documentation a grade of 0 will be assigned for the second and subsequent missed tests. Makeup tests will be administered at any time during the semester at the discretion of the instructor if a second test is missed.

Late for a test

If you arrive late for a test you will be allowed to take the test. However, you must turn in the test paper at the regular scheduled end of the test. You will not be allowed extra time unless a documentable emergency has occurred (see above).

Exams and Scantrons

Students are responsible for bringing a scantron to each exam. Please also bring a pencil, blue or black pen, or a dark marker for the test. Red, orange, or pink pens or markers are not acceptable for taking exams.

Final Note: The professor reserves the right to change the syllabus, curve or not curve exams, and change how the class is managed at any time during the semester. These changes, if any, will be announced in lecture and posted on Webcourses.

Schedule

May	13	CH 1
	14	CH 2
	15	CH 3
	16	Exam 1 and CH 4
	20	CH 5
	21	CH 6
	22	CH 7
	23	Exam 2 and CH 9
	27	
	28	CH 10
	29	CH 11
	30	Exam 3 and CH 12
June	3	CH 13
	4	CH 14
	5	CH 15
	6	Exam 4 and CH 16
	10	CH 17
	11	CH 18
	12	CH 19
	13	Exam 5 and CH 20
	17	CH 21 and 22
	18	CH 24
	19	CH 25
	20	Exam 6

Memorial Day NO CLASS