

Lecture Schedule: MWF 12:00 – 12:50 PM, Clark A104

Date	Topic	Readings
8/26/13	Course overview	--
8/28/13	Introduction to ecology	Ch. 1
8/30/13*	Patterns in climate, water and soil	Ch. 4
9/2/13	No classes	--
9/4/13	Adaptation to water and nutrients	Ch. 2
9/6/13*	Adaptation to light, energy and heat	Ch. 3
9/9/13	Adaptation to light, energy and heat	Ch. 3
9/11/13	Biomes	Ch. 5
9/13/13*	Evolution and adaptation	Ch. 6
9/16/13	Evolution and adaptation	Ch. 6
9/18/13	Life histories and fitness	Ch. 7
9/20/13*	Behavioral ecology	--
9/23/13	Sex and evolution	Ch. 8
9/25/13	Sociality and evolution	Ch. 9
9/27/13	EXAM I	
9/30/13	Population structure and distribution	Ch. 10
10/2/13	Population structure and distribution	Ch. 10
10/4/13*	Population growth and regulation	Ch. 11
10/7/13	Population growth and regulation	Ch. 11
10/9/13	Population dynamics	Ch. 12
10/11/13*	Population dynamics	Ch. 12
10/14/13	Population genetics	Ch. 13
10/16/13	Species interactions	Ch. 14
10/18/13*	Consumer-resource dynamics	Ch. 15
10/21/13	Consumer-resource dynamics	Ch. 15
10/23/13	Competition	Ch. 16
10/25/13*	Competition	Ch. 16
10/28/13	Species interactions	Ch. 17
10/30/13	Species interactions	Ch. 17
11/1/13	EXAM II	
11/4/13	Community structure	Ch. 18
11/6/13	Ecological succession and community development	Ch. 19
11/8/13*	Ecological succession and community development	Ch. 19
11/11/13	Biodiversity	Ch. 20
11/13/13	Dr. Monique Rocca: Fire and disturbance ecology	--
11/15/13*	Biogeography and diversity	Ch. 21
11/18/13	Energy in the ecosystem	Ch. 22
11/20/13	Energy in the ecosystem	Ch. 22
11/22/13*	Elements in the ecosystem	Ch. 23
11/23/13-12/1/13	Fall recess; no classes	
12/2/13	Nutrient cycling and productivity	Ch. 24
12/4/13	Landscape ecology	Ch. 25
12/6/13*	Landscape ecology	Ch. 25
12/9/13	Biodiversity, extinction and conservation	Ch. 26
12/11/13	Invasive species	--
12/13/13	EXAM III	

*Homework assignment due at 11:59 pm

**Schedule may be changed as needed. Announcements will be made in lecture.

FINAL EXAM (Comprehensive): Thursday, December 19, 4:10-6:10 PM

Instructor: Dr. Heather Blackburn
Office: E208B Anatomy/Zoology
E-mail: heather.blackburn@colostate.edu
Office Hours: Regular hours TBA; others by appointment
E-mail Communication: Please **put “LIFE 220” or “LAND 220” in the subject line.** If your questions are involved or require long answers, you should come to office hours, talk with me immediately after class, or make an appointment (see ‘Help’ below).

Course Materials:

1. **Textbook:** *The Economy of Nature*, Edition 6, by Ricklefs.
2. **RamCT:** Registered students have automatic access to the RamCT site where grades, assignments, and resources will be posted. PowerPoint lectures will not be posted.
3. **iClicker:** Bring a registered iClicker to class daily.

Grading Policy: 500 points are available for the course. There will be no plus/minus grades.

Exams: In lecture there will be three hourly exams worth 100 points each and a comprehensive, 100-point final exam. Thus, there will be four recorded exam scores. We will drop the lowest exam score. Therefore, you will have three exam scores out of a maximum of 300 points. **There will be no make-up exams.** If you miss an exam for any reason, you will receive a score of zero on that exam, and it will be the grade that is dropped. If you belong to any University sponsored group, I must be informed of known conflicts with exams with a letter signed by an appropriate authority by the beginning of the second week of classes and an alternative exam date will be arranged. I am happy to discuss exam questions with you at any time. For scoring purposes, no exam scores will be changed after 7 days following posting of exam scores and keys.

Homework: Twelve homework assignments will be available throughout the semester. Each homework assignment is worth 10 points, and the two lowest homework scores will be dropped. Homework will be worth a total of 100 points. These homework assignments will be posted on RamCT Blackboard. Each homework assignment will be based on a reading assignment, also posted in RamCT. Assignments will be available for one week, from 12:01 p.m. on Saturday through 11:59 p.m. the following Friday night. In the syllabus, dates on which a homework assignment is due are marked with an asterisk.

Quizzes: Questions will be asked daily in class, to be answered by iClicker. Many of these questions will not be worth points. Some quizzes, spread throughout the semester and unannounced, will be worth up to five points each. These quizzes will be based on the previous lecture or the current lecture. Quiz points available will total 25 points at the end of the semester.

Students with Disabilities: Students who need special accommodation for taking exams should consult with the Office of Resources for Disabled Students.

Preparing for Exams: Exams will be given on Scantron. Bring pencils. No notes, calculators or electrical devices are allowed. Bring your photo ID. The exam will be based on the information presented in lecture, which is largely based upon the readings. Much of the information in lecture is found in the textbook, but not all of it; good notes are key to doing well on the exam. I am not interested in “tricking” anyone; I try to focus exams on the major ideas and concepts covered in the course, and to ask questions that allow you to demonstrate that you understand the material conceptually. Outlines will be posted for every lecture. These are to help with organization of your

notes, and are not intended to be complete study guides.

Help: For quick questions, you are welcome to ask after class; for longer discussions, you should attend office hours or arrange a mutually convenient meeting time via e-mail..

Collaboration: Collaboration with classmates is encouraged. I recommend creating study groups and meeting regularly to talk about the lecture material and the readings. You can use the “discussions” tab on RamCT to organize study groups or chat about course material. However, your work should be your own; you may collaborate to work through homework questions, but do not copy each other. **It is our expectation that you will honor the following statement throughout this course: *I pledge on my honor that I have not received or given any unauthorized assistance on this academic work.***

Honesty: Please respect yourself, your classmates, and your instructors by using integrity in your coursework. Cheating is penalized at CSU, and is not worth the academic risk. More importantly, your personal character is more critical (and longer-lasting) than your grade in any course.

Important dates:

Friday, August 30: Last day for restricted drop

Monday, October 21: Last day for course withdrawal. Repeat/delete forms due.