

Virginia Commonwealth University
Ecology
Biology 317, Section [Removed] – Summer 2019

Instructor: Jonathan Moore
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Lecture: [Removed]

Office: [Removed]
Office Hours: [Removed]
Class Location: [Removed]

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: BIOL 151, 152 and BIOZ 151, 152, and UNIV 200 or HONR 200, with minimum grades of C. An introduction to the basic principles of ecology, including interactions among organisms and influences of the physical environment.

REQUIRED TEXT:

No text book is required for this course. I will introduce to you all the information you need to study in class. If you would like a reference, the figures used are from the following text book.

Title: Ecology: concepts and applications [6th or 7th edition]
Author: M.C. Molles
Publisher: McGraw-Hill: NY.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To develop an understanding of basic ecological principles.
2. To develop an appreciation of the complexity, diversity and structure of ecological systems.
3. To apply our growing knowledge of ecology to situations in everyday life.
4. To recognize man as a part of all ecosystems -- and to explore how man impacts "nature" and how "nature" impacts man.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. **Class Attendance and Participation:** I will take attendance at [Removed] OR after the break in class, which ever comes first. *If you miss an attendance check, you lose those points.* You may earn up to 2 points per attendance check, however fewer points will be awarded for poor participation as evaluated by the instructor. Exceptions are on test days (see Examinations) when there will only be a single attendance check after the exam. This means you can earn up to 72 points for this grade. Lectures will be given through Tophat (www.tophat.com), therefore you will need a subscription if you do not already have one. Please your VCU email address (@vcu.edu... NOT @mymail.vcu.edu) to join the course. The join code is [Removed]. Please fill out your V# for your ID (starting with "V" in the blank).
2. **Quizzes:** You will have two sources of quiz grades. The first will be in class questions presented in Tophat and can be discussed with your classmates before you choose an answer. The second will be quizzes presented in Blackboard every 2-3 chapters and must be done alone without any assistance from your classmates or other individuals. Any quiz question may be cumulative, covering material from a prerequisite course or learned in this course as this course material builds on itself. You must complete

Blackboard quizzes by the due date. Your quiz average from all sources will be worth 130 points.

3. **Examinations:** Exam dates and times are listed below. Class will continue after each exam except for the final exam. There will be a total of three examinations. The first two exams will cover the chapters covered up to the date of the test and will be 100 points each. The final is cumulative and worth 200 points.

Points will be distributed as the following:

Attendance -	70 points
Quiz Average -	130 points
Exam 1 -	100 points
Exam 2 -	100 points
<u>Final Exam -</u>	<u>200 points</u>
Total	600 points

GRADING:

- A 90-100
- B 80-89.99
- C 70-79.99
- D 60-69.99
- F 59.99 and below

CLASS POLICIES:

1. **Test Days:** Unless there is an excellent reason, any student arriving late (*after the first student has turned in his or her test*) will receive a grade of "zero" for that exam.
Absences from a test or exam: An unexcused absence from a test/exam will be recorded as a "zero." Please be prepared to present valid documentation (physician's note, obituary, etc.) for make-up tests. Make-up test formats will be left to my discretion (and may include an oral exam).
2. **Communication:** My preferred method of communication with students (other than in person) is via email. Having said this, I will respond to emails as quickly as my schedule allows. Therefore, you should not delay in writing an email to me that may be time-sensitive. Further, each student should identify himself or herself in the email and in which class they are enrolled. Failure to do this may delay your response or result in an unanswered email.

TEST DATES

EXAM	DATES
Exam #1	[Removed]
Exam #2	[Removed]
Final Exam	[Removed]

TENTATIVE CHAPTERS TO BE COVERED

TOPIC	CHAPTERS (Molles)
I. Introduction	
A. The "e" words	1
B. Natural history	2,3
II. Individuals	
A. Temperature relations	5
B. Water relations	6
C. Energy and nutrient relations	7
III. Populations	
A. Selection	4,8
B. Distribution and abundance	9
C. Dynamics	10
D. Growth	11
E. Life histories	12
IV. Biotic interactions	
A. Competition	13
B. Exploitation	14
C. Mutualism	15
V. Community and ecosystem processes	
A. Biodiversity	16
B. Food webs	17
C. Production and E ^o -flow	18
D. Nutrient cycling	19
VI. Integrated processes	
A. Succession	20
B. Landscape ecology	21
C. Biogeography	22
D. Global ecology	23

STATEMENTS FOR SYLLABI AND BLACKBOARD PAGES

Students should visit <http://go.vcu.edu/syllabus> and review all syllabus statement information. The full university syllabus statement includes information on safety, registration, the VCU Honor Code, student conduct, withdrawal and more.