

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT ECOLOGY & EVOLUTION SYLLABUS BIOL 3250 – Spring 2024

Instructor Name: Emily Rose, Ph.D.

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Office Location: Bailey Science Building 2211

Office Hours: Tuesday 9:30-11:30, Wednesday 1-4pm and by appointment, email for arranging virtual meetings with Zoom [link](#)

Lecture location: Bailey Science Center 1202

Lecture times: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 8:00-8:50am

Lab location: Bailey Science Center 1043

Lab Sections/times: Wednesday 9-11:50

Course Overview:

BIOL 3250. Ecology and Evolution. 4 Hours. Prerequisites: BIOL 1107, 1107L, BIOL 1108, 1108L, and BIOL 3200. An introduction to major topics in ecology and evolution, including population, community, and ecosystem ecology; Darwinian theory of evolution through natural selection; microevolution and macroevolution. Computer and field labs will provide exposure to both evolutionary theory and field ecology.

Required Materials:

Textbook: Ecology: Evolution, Application, Integration 2nd Edition by David Krohne, Oxford University Press

Excel- Provided by VSU through your email account

Online simulations through SIMBIO for the lab- will be provided for free this semester

Course Format:

We will be meeting face-to-face for lecture and labs. We will have several labs that will include fieldwork outside. Students will be required to have access to Excel either on their own machines, in a computer lab or by remote accessing the lab computers to complete assignments. If there are changes to the course format you will be notified by Dr. Rose via email and announcements on BlazeVIEW, in addition to the official University emails. If you are unable to attend class in person due to illness, you are responsible for contacting Dr. Rose directly to make arrangements. Online accommodations will only be made for students who have VSU approval.

Course Learning Objectives:

This course covers a wide range of topics within the realm of ecology and evolution and allows student to develop their own ideas through a peer-reviewed research grant writing process. The laboratory portion offers students the opportunity to get directly involved with ecological experimentation and techniques, while diving into the evolutionary theory using a variety of simulations and activities.

By the end of the semester, each student will:

- 1) Develop a better understanding of ecological and evolutionary concepts and cultivate critical thinking skills through the scientific method.
- 2) Operate scientific instruments and equipment commonly used in biological experimentation.
- 3) Understand the basis of evolutionary ecology theory and its application.
- 4) Translate analyzed data into meaningful scientific results, synthesize a literature review, develop their own questions/hypotheses.
- 5) Compose a research grant and build upon their scientific writing skills.
- 6) Work on their ability to convey ideas and educate others while giving presentations.

These course objectives are aimed to fulfill the VSU General Educational outcomes 3,4,5 and 7. This course's set of learning objectives support the outcomes 1, 2 and 5 of the [VSU Selected Educational Outcomes for the B.S. Degree in Biology](#).

Grade Determination:

Assessment	Points	Grading Scale:
Participation in Lab and Lecture	30	≥ 900 pts, A 800-899, B 700-799, C 600-699, D <600 pts, F
Research Grant (100), Final edits (20), 1 st meeting papers (10), Annotated Bibliography (30)	160	
Exam 1,2,3 (100pts each), Final/Exam 4 (150 pts)	450	
Lecture and Laboratory Assignments	160	
Lab Midterm and Lab Final (100pts each)	200	
Total Points	1000	

Participation: Points for participation will be given based on your preparedness and your contribution to the lecture and lab activities. This includes participating in the group efforts to collect the data and work as a team member during the lab assignments. I will be taking attendance for all of our class meetings and points will be deducted for students who are chronically late or missing class. Points will be deducted if you come to class or lab late. If you are not prepared for lab or are disrespectful to your fellow classmates or professor you will lose participation points.

Lecture and Lab assignments: For most lab exercises, you will be required to perform graphing/data analysis and/or writing assignments. Some of these you will complete in lab while others will require additional work after lab. These assignments will be explained in detail during lab, and due at the beginning of the following class meeting unless otherwise noted. Instructions on how to turn in the assignment will be explained when the assignment is given (primarily submitted via the Blazeview assignments link, in the SIMBIO platform, completed in the google folder, etc.). I reserve the right to adjust the evaluation criteria in the event of extenuating circumstances. There will be a few readings for

lecture that require you to contribute discussion questions prior to meeting for class. Students who miss more than three labs will forfeit all Laboratory Assignment points.

Exams: All lecture exams 1,2,3 will be closed note and administered in person, starting when lecture begins for the hour and 15 minutes. The Final/Exam 4 will be administered on-line and will be open note. Lab exams will be in person and will be open note but only for the 3 hours of lab.

Make-Up Work: Late assignments will be not be accepted and make up assignments will be at the sole discretion of the professor. These assignments may or may not exactly duplicate the original and will not entitle other students to the same alternatives since they may not have experienced the same situations.

Lecture & Lab Policies: Guidelines for your safety and the safety of those around you.

1. No eating or drinking in the lecture or lab.
2. Use hand sanitizer when you enter, wash your hands after the exercises for lab.
3. Know where emergency/first aid equipment and disposal receptacles are for lab. Any injuries should be reported to me immediately!
4. Please dress appropriately for field days. I recommend comfortable closed-toed shoes or water shoes if appropriate for the specific lab, always have drinking water, and some will want to bring sunscreen and/or bug repellent. In addition, fieldtrips are often hot or cold (depending on the time of semester) and may require walking to a destination, so you should dress accordingly.
5. Please respect those around you and wear a mask when in the classroom, computer lab or when within 6 feet outside during the lab.
6. Although we are using a lot of technology for our class, please avoid using your phones or computers for anything else during our class time. We have a lot of focus on and juggle so you need to be 100% committed and focused to the course during your 5.5 hours with me each week. **Recordings of the Dr. Rose's lectures are not permitted without her permission.**

How to Succeed in this Course:

- To be able to recreate graphs/figures, concepts, and examples from lecture on the exams I highly recommend that you recopy your notes/Dr. Rose's ppts into a well-organized and concise study guide. You should also be practicing and interpreting any of the equations that we have covered in the course to make sure you understand the concepts in addition to the plugging in of numbers.
- Although lab exams are open note, you will need to trouble shoot and execute all of the skills we have learned during the labs so take good notes and practice the activities before the lab exams. You will want to review what we did, why we did it, how we did it and what we found in lab.
- Get ahead!!! The deadlines for every assignment this semester are listed in the syllabus calendar so there is no reason to turn in assignments late. Start assignments early to get feedback on them before they are due. Do not blame Blazeview for taking too long when loading your file at midnight.
- Ask questions during class or come to office hours. If you cannot make it to office hours, please email Dr. Rose and schedule a meeting for when you are free.

Course Policies:

Non-Discrimination and Title IX Statement

Valdosta State University (VSU) upholds all applicable laws and policies regarding discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment and pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, religion, age, veteran status, political affiliation, or disability. The University prohibits specific forms of behavior that violate Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities that receive federal funding. VSU considers sex discrimination in any form to be a serious offense. Title IX refers to all forms of sex discrimination committed against others, including but not limited to: sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, and sexual violence by other employees, students or third parties and gender inequity or unfair treatment based on an individual's sex/gender. The designated Title IX Coordinator for VSU is Ms. Selenseia Holmes. To view the full policy or to report an incident visit: <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/title-ix/>. Dr. Rose's course is a safe space for students where you will be treated with respect and are expected to respect others. Individuals of all ages, backgrounds, beliefs, ethnicities, genders, gender identities, gender expressions, national origins, religious affiliations, sexual orientations, ability – and other visible and nonvisible differences, are welcome and deserve to be treated equally.

Academic Integrity Statement

Cheating, plagiarism, copying and any other behavior that is contrary to University standards of behavior will not be tolerated (Academic Honesty Policies and Procedures). Students caught violating any aspect of the Academic Integrity Code will be penalized in all cases. Penalty ranges from “0” on an assignment to “F” for the course without regard to a student's accumulated points. Students may also face expulsion. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the policies of the university regarding academic integrity and to avoid violating such policies.

VSU's Academic Student Conduct Code states that “no student shall engage in plagiarism, which is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were the student's own.” Students are not allowed to turn in assignments from other students or their own assignments from previous semesters. Content generated by an Artificial Intelligence third-party service or site (AI-generated content) is another form of plagiarism. If you are unsure about whether something may be plagiarism or another form of academic dishonesty, please reach out to me as soon as possible. By taking this course, you agree that all required course work may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin, a tool within BlazeVIEW. For more information on the use of Turnitin at VSU see Turnitin for Students.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who are experiencing barriers in this course may contact the Access Office (<https://www.valdosta.edu/student/disability/>) for assistance in determining and implementing reasonable accommodations. The Access Office is located in University Center Room 4136 Entrance 5. The phone numbers are 229-245-2498 (V), 229-375-5871. For more information, please visit VSU's Access Office or email: access@valdosta.edu. To request reasonable accommodations for pregnancy and childbirth, contact Ms. Myia Miller, Title IX Compliance Officer, at maburden@valdosta.edu. Please note, you will be required to provide documentation from an appropriately licensed medical professional indicating the requested accommodations are medically necessary.

Additional Academic Support

The Academic Support Center (ASC) provides unlimited, in-person, free peer tutoring in core courses such as math, English/writing, sciences, social sciences, and languages. We also offer 8 hours of free online tutoring via Tutor.com (8 hours per student, available 24/7). Click the Free Tutoring link in any Blazeview course to make appointments. Please drop by our space in Odum Library, 2nd floor, or call 229-333-7570, email asc@valdosta.edu, or visit the website www.valdosta.edu/asc for more information. We will have a PAL for the course that will offer biweekly sessions for extra help with the course material. The meeting times will be voted on by the class and posted on the course's BlazeView page.

Experiential Learning Statement

This course includes an Experiential Learning opportunity carefully designed to allow students to explore concepts, skills, and principles beyond the traditional classroom, lab, or studio. Students will have opportunities to make connections across campus, collaborate with others, and apply and synthesize what they have studied in the course. In addition to the experience, students reflect on what they have learned during and at the completion of the course/activity to deepen their learning. Reflections help students transfer skills and concepts to different contexts including 'real-world' settings. For more information about Experiential Learning please visit <https://qep.valdosta.edu/experiential-learning/>.

Mental Health Awareness

As a student, you may experience a range of challenges that can interfere with learning, such as strained or violent relationships, death and loss, increased anxiety, substance use, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may diminish your academic performance and/or reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. VSU services are available and treatment does work. You can learn more about confidential mental health services available on campus at: <http://www.valdosta.edu/student/student-services/counseling-center/>. 24 hour emergency help is also available through the University Police at 229-259-5555 who will contact on-call counselors or appropriate resources for support.

Student Opinion of Instruction Statement

At the end of the term, all students will be expected to complete an online Student Opinion of Instruction survey (SOI) that will be available through SmartEvals. Students will receive an email notification through their VSU email address when the SOI is available (generally at least one week before the end of the term). SOI responses are anonymous to instructors/administrators, and they will be able to access results only after they have submitted final grades. Before final grade submission, instructors will not be able to see any responses, but they can see the percentage of students who have or have not completed their SOIs. While instructors will not be able to see student names, an automated system will send a reminder email to those who have yet to complete their SOIs. Students who withdraw or drop a course will also be sent invitations to complete the Dropped Course Survey. Complete information about the SOIs, including how to access the survey, is available on the [SOI Procedures webpage](#).

Spring 2024- Dr. Rose's Ecology & Evolution course (BIO3250)

Note: The professor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus as necessary.

Monday Lecture	Wednesday Lecture	Wednesday LAB	Friday Lecture	Research Grant	Assignments
1/8 Syllabus	1/10 Grant Proposal Guidelines	Data analysis survey	1/12 Grant discussions	Think about topic ideas	I recommend downloading Excel on to your computer
1/15 MLK Day: No classes	1/17 CHAPTER 1: Intro to ECOLOGY	Lab 1: Introductions, Experimental Design & Excel	1/19 CHAPTER 4 Intro to BIOMES	Start searching for publications to read	Lab 1 HW Practice excel graphing assignment due on BV Sunday Midnight (10)
1/22 CHAPTER 5 Intro to Aquatic Ecosystems	1/24 CHAPTER 16: Species Diversity-Community Ecology	Lab 2: Community Ecology analyses	1/26 CHAPTER 15: Ecological Succession 6	Start narrowing down ideas about topics and read papers	Lab 2 HW Benthic Diversity Data due on BV Sunday Midnight (10)
1/29 CHAPTER 16: What is a species & phylogenetics?	1/31 Continue Species lecture	Lab 3: Species Diversity Fieldwork- Field trip to Freedom Park for tree succession	2/2 Finish lectures and review	Come up with possible research projects ideas and question to propose	Lab 3 HW Stats and graphs from class data due on BV Sunday Midnight (10)
2/5 LECTURE EXAM 1: Biomes and Ecosystems	2/7 CHAPTER 8: Demography	Lab 4: Mark/Recapture & Spatial distributions of populations	2/9 CHAPTER 10: Life History Strategies	Must have 5 papers uploaded with ideas for grant before meeting (10)	Lab 4 HW Mark/Recap Sunday Midnight on BV (10)
2/12 CHAPTER 9: What limits population growth?	2/14 <i>First Grant Proposal meetings</i>	Lab 5: Life History and Field trip to the cemetery	2/16 CHAPTER 12: Coevolution- Predator & Prey	Find 10 papers to help support your grant question, start Annotated Bibliography	Lab 5 HW Tables and Life history graph on BV Sunday Midnight (10)
2/19 CHAPTER 13: Coevolution- Mutualism	2/21 CHAPTER 11: Competition	Lab 6: Isle Royale: Predator/Prey dynamics (Simbio)	2/23 CHAPTER 11: Competition	Write Annotated Bibliography for 10 papers	Isle Royale Simbio postlab questions by Sunday midnight (5)
2/26 Finish lectures and review	2/28 No lecture- prep for lab midterm	LAB MIDTERM (on labs 1-6)	3/1 LECTURE EXAM 2: Ecological Parameters	Create a paper outline for the grant to start building paper	

3/4 CHAPTER 2(I): Darwin and Evolution	3/6 CHAPTER 2 (I): Genetic Drift & Natural Selection	Lab 7: Darwin's Finches & mutations in HIV (Simbio)	3/8 CHAPTER 2 (II): Intro to Evolutionary Analyses (HWE)	Annotated Bibliography DUE midnight 3/17 prior to Lab 8 (30)	Do SimBio post lab questions (10) and Lab 7 HW graphing (10) by Sunday midnight
3/11 SPRING BREAK	3/13 SPRING BREAK	NO LAB	3/15 SPRING BREAK		Do the HWE practice problems (10)
3/18 CHAPTER 6(I): Behavioral Ecology- Mating Systems	3/20 <i>Second Grant Proposal meetings</i>	Lab 8: HWE & Animal Behavioral Experimental Design	3/22 CHAPTER 6(II): Behavioral Ecology- Heritability	Finish intro, work on proposed project sections using Figure	Create Figure 1 for grant! (10) Do Chi squared Lab 8 HW (10) on Animal Behavior data
3/25 CHAPTER 7: Ecology of Genetic Variation	3/27 Field trip for Lab 9	Lab 9: Animal Behavioral Experiment data Collection Field trip to Lake Louise	3/29 Finish chapters and review for exam 3	See Dr. Rose for help or edits. Finish first "overview" and final "conclusions" paragraphs.	Animal behavior lab: Collect data, complete data analyses and write up (30)
4/1 LECTURE EXAM 3: Micro and Macro- Evolution	4/3 Grant workshop	Lab 10: Data Interpretation & Animal Behavioral Posters	4/5 Present Posters for Animal Behavior lab	GRANT IS DUE (100) 4/7 by midnight via Blazeview assignments link!	Peer review posters (10)
4/8 CHAPTER 17: Pollution & Biomagnificatio n	4/10 CHAPTER 17: Ecotoxicology	Lab 11: Water Quality fieldwork and testing	4/12 Finish CH 17		Graphs from water quality testing data on BV Sunday midnight (10)
4/15 Chapter 21: Climate Change	4/17 Chasing Coral	Lab 12: Nutrient Pollution (Simbio)	4/19 CHAPTER 19: Conservation Biology	Make changes from peer review/Dr. Rose's comments.	Postlab questions from simbio nutrient pollution by end of lab (5)
4/22 EARTH DAY Finish CH19	4/24 No lecture- prep for lab exam	LAB FINAL (on labs 7-12)	4/26 Finish lectures and review for final exam	Final Grant edits (20) DUE on BV SUN 4/28 by midnight	
FINALS WEEK:	Wednesday May 1	8-10am			