Syllabus BIOL 3336 – ECOLOGY

Spring 2019

Professor:
Dr. Jon Seal, BEP 264, Phone – 566-7126, Email – jseal@uttyler.edu
Office Hours: M 10-11am, W: 2-3pm or by appointment

Course Meeting Time: MWF 11:15-12:10 pm, HPR 251

Course Description: Study of the interrelationships of plants and animals with the environment. Co-requisite: BIOL 3137. Prerequisites: BIOL 1306/1106, BIOL 1307/1107.

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes
1. Develop the ability to evaluate scientific inquiry on issues in the field of Ecology.
2. Learn the various mechanisms that organisms use in interacting with both the physical and natural world.
3. Understand the structure and function of different types of ecosystems.
4. Develop an understanding and appreciation of the importance of the natural world in their own personal lives.

Required Texts:
Cain, M.L. et al. 2014. Ecology, 3rd or 4th editions, Sinauer. Please note that the order of the chapters on interspecific interactions (Chapters 12-15 in 3rd edition) do not correspond exactly with the order in the 4th edition. The content is the same, however.

Evaluation: Grades will be assigned based on the performance on three exams and a final exam. Each of the three exams will be worth 25% of the final grade (75% total) and the final 25%. Each exam and the final exam will be worth 100 points each. Material for the exams will come from the lecture (videos and guest lectures) and the required text. The completed extra credit assignments (see description below) will be uploaded on Canvas by the deadline arranged in class (approximately 1 week after the lectures). More details will be announced in class.

Evaluation Summary:
75% exams (3 at 25% each)
25% Final Exam

Extra Credit Opportunities: UT Tyler is sponsoring two scientific outreach events in the spring semester of 2019. Both of these events recognize and emphasize the benefits of scientific exploration and discovery. I will be offering extra credit to students who attend the public lectures stated below. By attending each of the four events below and writing a 1 page synopsis of the public lecture you may earn up to 7.5 points (2.5 points each). Extra credit points will be assigned to Exam 1. The times and locations of these events will be announced in lecture. You may only receive extra credit by attending the lectures. Please realize that these are extra credit assignments. If you do not attend these events or cannot because of scheduling conflicts, alternative assignments will not be made available to you. Your grade will not suffer by not completing extra credit assignments. Extra credit can only help you. I strongly recommend that you 1) plan now so you can attend these events and 2) do not rely on extra credit to give you the grade you want.

Darwin Day February 7-8. UT Tyler is holding its annual Darwin Day celebration which honors Charles Darwin’s contribution to society and evolutionary biology. There are two lectures held during Darwin Day. This year’s speaker is Dr. Amanda Glaze of Georgia Southern University. See more here http://darwindaytyler.org/
Grading Issues. In grading, I strive for fairness and consistency. If you feel like a grading error was made on an exam, you may submit a typed appeal within a week (7 days) of when the exam was returned to you. Your written appeal should be based on course materials and should stress the scientific validity of your original response.

Final grades in the course will be determined by a standard grading system:
- 90 – 100% = A
- 80 – 89% = B
- 70 – 79% = C
- 60 – 69% = D
- < 59% = F

Although exams will stress the material preceding each exam, all exams should be considered comprehensive (as is all biology). Exams will cover the materials presented in lectures and assigned readings. **Other than the events outlined above, I do not give extra credit.**

SUPPLEMENTS: Illustrations, announcements and PowerPoint presentations will be available on Blackboard. These materials are strictly for your own use, and are not to be disseminated to anyone else, under any circumstances. I also suggest printing out illustrations for future lectures to facilitate note-taking. Lectures will be supplemented by frequent films shown during class. These will provide new information or reaffirm the information presented in lecture. Both lectures and supplements represent testable material. The textbook also has an excellent website with quizzes and other study aids. [https://ecology4e.sinauer.com/](https://ecology4e.sinauer.com/). While the online supplements will not directly count toward your grade, students who avail themselves of this feature often learn more and have higher grades.

HONOR CODE/ ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Students should be aware that absolute academic integrity is expected of every student in all undertakings at The University of Texas at Tyler. Failure to comply can result in strong university-imposed penalties. Plagiarism (copying the work of others without proper citation), talking during test time, having mobile electronic devices on (cell phones, PDA’s, laptops) during exams are some examples of behavior to be avoided.

UT Tyler Honor Code
Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

Be forewarned that while taking an exam, the possession of anything containing course content will be considered cheating, whether or not you actually refer to it during the exam. TALKING during an EXAM to anyone other than the instructor or proctor will automatically be considered cheating. It does not matter what you were talking about. This includes the use of cell phones (even if they call YOU) or any other electronic device that could be used to record test material. Violation of this policy will be considered cheating and treated accordingly. Penalties for cheating include anything from a zero on the exam or quiz during which the cheating occurred, up to an F for the course in question.

You are encouraged to study together and to discuss information and concepts covered in lecture and the sections with other students. You can give and receive “consulting” help. However, this permission to cooperate should never involve one student having possession of a copy of all or part of work done by someone else, in the form of digital or hard copy. If copying occurs, both the student who copied the work from another student and the student who gave material to be copied will both automatically receive a zero for the assignment. Penalty for violation of this Code can also be extended to include failure of the course and University disciplinary action. See more below under ‘Student Standards of Academic Conduct’

EXAMS: It is your responsibility to arrive at the exam on time. All exams will be held in our regular
classroom. Students who arrive late will not be given additional time, and anyone arriving after other students have finished and left will not be permitted to take the exam.

Failing to take a scheduled examination will result in a score of 0 unless replaced by a make-up exam in a timely fashion. ‘Make-up’ examinations are given only in cases where there is a documented excuse beyond your reasonable control:

- Illness – you must have a physician note indicating that you were not in a physical condition to take the exam at the scheduled time. A note from a family member is insufficient.
- Death or grave illness in your immediate family.
- Significant scheduling conflicts (e.g., med-school interviews, or other university sponsored events). You must notify the instructor at least 2 weeks in advance of this absence.

The nature of the make-up exam will be decided by the instructor and may consist of a written and/or oral examination.

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

**STUDENT ABSENCE FOR UNIVERSITY-SPONSORED EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**
If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

**RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS:** Religious holy days sometimes conflict with class and examination schedules. The University policy is that students who miss course work due to the observance of a religious holy day must be given the opportunity to complete the work missed within a reasonable time after the absence, provided that the instructor is notified in advance. Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

**DISABILITY SERVICES**
In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychiatric disabilities. If you have a disability, including non-visible disabilities such as chronic diseases, learning disabilities, head injury, PTSD or ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment you are encouraged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources office and schedule an interview with the Accessibility Case Manager/ADA Coordinator, Cynthia Lowery Staples. If you are unsure if the above criteria applies to you, but have questions or concerns please contact the SAR office. For more information or to set up an appointment please visit the SAR office located in the University Center, Room 3150 or call 903.566.7079. You may also send an email to cstaples@uttyler.edu

**STUDENTS RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:** To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: [http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/StudentRightsandResponsibilities.html](http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/StudentRightsandResponsibilities.html)

**SOCIAL SECURITY AND FERPA STATEMENT:**
It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.
EMERGENCY EXITS AND EVACUATION:
Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor’s directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do Not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University
All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors. Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products. There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free.

Campus Carry
We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. Please be aware that many research and teaching laboratories in the Department of Biology are approved Exclusion Zones. Be alert to signage throughout the HPR and BEP buildings. More information is available at http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php

Students Rights and Responsibilities
To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies
Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. (For Spring 2017, the Census Date is January 30.) Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar. Each semester’s Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date (30 January 2017) is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:
- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a “W” grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

State-Mandated Course Drop Policy
Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date). Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

**Student Standards of Academic Conduct:** Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

(i) “Cheating” includes, but is not limited to:

- copying from another student’s test paper;
- using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
- possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed “crib notes”. The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
- using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
- collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
- discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
- divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructors has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
- substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
- paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
- falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
- taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
- misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.

(ii) “Plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the submission of it as one’s own academic work offered for credit.
(iii) “Collusion” includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

(iv) All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by SafeAssign™, available on Blackboard.

**UT Tyler Resources for Students:**

- UT Tyler Writing Center (903.565.5995), writingcenter@uttyler.edu, http://www.uttyler.edu/writingcenter/
- UT Tyler Tutoring Center (903.565.5964), tutoring@uttyler.edu, https://www.uttyler.edu/tutoring/
- The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, This is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.
- UT Tyler Counseling Center (903.566.7254) https://www.uttyler.edu/counseling/
**TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE**
(Changes will be announced in class)

**Lecture Topics (Chapters)**

Introduction (1)
Adaptations and Evolution (6)
Life History (7)
Behavioral Ecology (8)

**Feb 15 – Exam 1**
Population Dynamics (9-11)
Ecological Interactions
  - Competition (12)
  - Predation (13-14)
  - Coevolution (15)
Community Ecology (16-19)

**March 22 – Exam 2**
Ecosystems and Energy Flow (21-22)
Physical Environment (2-5)
Global Ecology/Climate Change (23-25)

**April 26: Exam 3**

**Final Exam TBA (May 1-4)**

**Important Dates:**

January 28: Census Date
March 11-16: Spring Break
April 1: Withdrawal Date
May 4: End of Term