

Biology 306, Ecological Methods, Spring 2018

Course overview

Faculty	Peter Zani, Ph.D. Office: 444 TNR; Phone: 715-346-2237; E-mail: pzani@uwsp.edu Office hours: M 1:30-2:30, F 9:30-11:30, or by appointment
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Lab Schedule

Week	Day	Lab Topic	Assignment
1	01/22	Intro to lab	
2	01/30	Density Experiment Setup	
3	02/06	Winter Ecology (O)	Field observations (10 pts.)
4	02/13	Experimental Design & Library Research	Library assignment (10 pts.)
5	02/20	Data Analyses	Practice analyses (10 pts.)
6	02/27	Estimating Population Size	Abundance report (10 pts.)
7	03/06	Density Data Collection (O)	Density report (10 pts.)
8	03/13	Diversity Data Collection (O)	Diversity report (10 pts.)
9	03/20	Density Experiment Analyses	Experiment report (10 pts.)
10	03/27	SPRING BREAK	
11	04/03	Demography Data Collection (O)	Summary data table (10 pts.)
12	04/10	Demography Data Analyses	Completed life table (10 pts.)
13	04/17	Environmental Gradients (O)	
14	04/24	Environmental Gradients Data Collection	
15	05/01	Environmental Gradients Analyses	Gradients report (10 pts.)

Course description

This course examines application of ecological methods in both the field and laboratory. In addition, it touches on experimental design, library resources, and analyses of data.

Course goals

Upon completion of this course you should be able to:

Differentiate among various types of experimental design and their implementation in the study of ecological ideas.

Demonstrate experience with methods and techniques for studying the various components of the ecosystem.

Collect, analyze, interpret, and summarize ecological data.

Discuss current ecological issues.

Course evaluation

Your final grade is based on the percentage of points that you earn from the above assignments.

≥93% = A, ≥90% = A-, ≥87% = B+, ≥83% = B, ≥80% = B-, ≥77% = C+, ≥73% = C, ≥70% = C-, ≥67% = D+, ≥60% = D, <60% = F

In-Class Behavior

You are expected to be respectful and considerate of your fellow students' learning environment. *All cell phones* are to be silenced and put away during class. No texting, no calls, no exceptions (I may not say anything at the time, but you should expect your participation grade to be affected negatively if you violate these guidelines). You are not required to *agree* with every opinion expressed by your peers or by me; in fact, healthy skepticism is to be expected of any good scientist. However, you should respect the right of others to hold different opinions and perhaps even learn from their viewpoints. You are expected to ask questions and participate in discussions where appropriate.

Disabilities

If you have a documented disability that may have some impact on your work in this class for which you may require accommodations, please see me during the first two weeks of the semester so that such accommodations may be arranged.

Academic Integrity

Any misrepresentation of your work, including plagiarism or cheating, will result in a zero (0) for that assignment. You should become familiar with the Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures governing academic conduct.

Notification of Participation in College Sanctioned Events

Individuals who must miss a class to participate in a college-sanctioned event must notify me in advance. It is your responsibility to communicate with me in advance regarding absences and determine a schedule for make-up work.