

Arizona State University West Campus

BIO 320—Fundamentals of Ecology
Summer I 2010

Course Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Udo M. Savalli

Office: CLCC 116; 602-543-3750

Office hours: M-Th 12:30-1:30 pm or by appointment

Email: udo.savalli@asu.edu or dr.udo@savalli.us

Course web site: <http://www.savalli.us/BIO320/>

Required Text: Molles, M.C. Jr. 2010. *Ecology: Concepts & Applications*, 5th ed. McGraw-Hill

Class Meeting Time and Place: Mon-Fri 11:00–12:30, CLCC L1-74

Course Description: Organization, functioning, and development of ecological systems; energy flow; biogeochemical cycling; environmental relations; population dynamics. Prerequisites: BIO 187, 188; CHM 113, CHM 115 or 116, all with a C or better.

Course Grading:

Course grades will be based upon an average score of the following:

2 Exams @ 100 pts each	200
Comprehensive Final Exam	200
Homework & other assignments*	70
TOTAL	470

* Exact point values of assignments are subject to change.

Course Grades will be based on the following scale:

98 - 100% — A+
≥93 - <98% — A
≥90 - <93% — A-
≥88 - <90% — B+
≥83 - <88% — B
≥80 - <83% — B-
≥77 - <80% — C+
≥70 - <77% — C
≥60 - <70% — D
0 - <60% — E

Exams will be based on both the material presented in lecture and your readings. Exams will include various short answer and essay questions. Use or accessing of cell phones, PDAs and other electronic devices is strictly prohibited during exams.

Missed Examinations: Students missing exams or assignments will get a grade of 0 except for exceptional circumstances (such as severe illness or death in the immediate family; written documentation will be required). Unless the student can arrange to take a lecture exam before it is returned (usually the next class period), makeups (for excused absences only) will be given at a day and time determined by the instructor, but likely towards the end of the semester.

Late Assignments: Assignments are due at the *start of class* on the day indicated on the assignment or announced in class. Work turned in after the due date and time will be severely penalized (minimum of 10% per day) and will not be accepted at all once assignments have been graded and returned to students.

Attendance: Attendance is essential to success in this class. There is no specific point value for attendance, but there may be occasional in-class assignments. If you miss class it is your responsibility to get notes from a classmate as well as any announcements and handouts (most handouts can be downloaded from the course web site).

Disruptive or distracting behavior is not allowed. This includes talking (excluding questions and class discussion, of course), reading newspapers, snoring, working on a laptop, etc. It also includes arriving late or leaving class early. Students that disrupt the class may be asked to leave. **Be sure to turn off any cell phones before coming to class:** students whose cell phones ring or who are talking on a cell phone during class may be asked to leave; repeated offenses are subject to additional grade penalties. Students with special circumstances (e.g. sick family member) that requires phone access or leaving early should inform the instructor before class begins.

Withdrawal Policy: Students wishing to withdraw from the course must do so before June 18th.

Incomplete Policy: An incomplete grade (I) will only be given to a student that has completed a substantial portion of the class with a grade of C or higher and who is unable to complete the course requirements due to illness or extenuating non-academic circumstances. Documentation will be required.

Cheating will NOT be tolerated! Although students are encouraged to study together, all assignments must represent one's own work. For more information, students should consult the Academic Integrity Policy at <http://www.west.asu.edu/studentlife/forms/acadinteg.htm> and the Student Code of Conduct at http://www.abor.asu.edu/1_the_regents/policymanual/index.html#5

Syllabus

(Tentative and subject to change)

Date:	Topic	Reading*
June 1	Introduction. What is Ecology?	1
	2 Terrestrial Biomes	2
	3 Aquatic Biomes & Hydrological Cycle	3
	4 Evolution by Natural Selection	4
	7 Ecological Physiology: Temperature	5
	8 Ecological Physiology: Water	6
	9 Ecological Physiology: Energy & Nutrients	7
10	EXAM 1 ; Behavioral Ecology	8
11	Behavioral Ecology: Social Behavior	8
	14 Population Distributions	9
15	Population Dynamics & Growth	10-11
16	Life Histories	12
17	Interspecific Competition	13
18	Predation and Parasitism	14
	21 Mutualism & Commensalism	15
22	EXAM 2 ; Species Interactions	17
23	Community Diversity and Succession	16, 20
24	Ecosystem: Energy Flow & Productivity	18
25	Nutrient Cycles	19
	28 Landscape Ecology	21
	29 Biogeography	22
	30 Conservation Biology	
July 1	Global Ecology & Climate Effects	23
	2 FINAL EXAM	

*Chapters in Molles 2010, *Ecology: Concepts & Applications*, 5th ed.