

**LSC 310—Natural History of Arizona
Spring 2009**

Course Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Udo M. Savalli

Office: CLCC 203; 602-543-3750

Office hours: Wed 12-3 pm, Thu 12-2:30 pm

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

Course web site: <http://www.savalli.us> Then click on the LSC310 link.
Also accessible via Blackboard

Required Text: S. Phillips & P. Comus (eds) 2000. *A Natural History of the Sonoran Desert*.
Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum Press.
4 Scantron forms: 882-E (100 item)

Class Meeting Time and Place: Tue/Thu 10:30-11:45 in CLCC 199

Official Description: Plant and animal communities of Arizona. Cannot be used for major credit in the biological sciences. General studies: SG (if credit also earned in LSC 311).

Course Overview: Natural history is a diverse field of biology that attempts to describe and explain the immense variety of naturally occurring species. It is the study of the relationships organisms have with their environment and with other organisms. The study of natural history is interdisciplinary. Students are expected to integrate knowledge and techniques from geology, biology, chemistry and mathematics to gain an understanding of the natural history of Arizona.

Course Grading:	
Course grades will be based upon an average score of the following:	
3 Exams @ 100 pts each	300
Comprehensive Final Exam	150
Homework, videos, & other assignments*	50
TOTAL	500
* 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 be primarily multiple choice using Scantron forms. 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 or quizzes. 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 April 5th.

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)

Week of:	Topic	Reading (pp)*
Jan 20-22	Introduction. What is Natural History?	
27-29	The Scientific Method; Evolution	
Feb 3-5	Geological History of Arizona; Topography	71-85
10-12	Geology & Soils; Climate	9-28, 41-59, 87-104
17-19	EXAM 1: Tuesday, Feb 17 Human History of Arizona	105-118
24-26	Ecological Concepts; Biotic Communities	3-18, 119-126
Mar 3-5	Biotic Communities of Arizona	3-18
10-12	No Class — Spring Break	
17-19	Plants	127-280
24-26	EXAM 2: Tuesday, Mar 24 Invertebrates	281-364
Mar 31-Apr 2	Fish, Amphibians	509-526, 529-542
Apr 7-9	Reptiles	543-585
14-16	Birds	373-458
21-23	Birds, continued EXAM 3: Thursday, Apr 23	
28-30	Mammals	367-372, 459-507
May 5	Course Overview: The Future of the Desert	
May 12	FINAL EXAM: 9:50 - 11:40	

*Pages in Phillips & Comus 2000. *A Natural History of the Sonoran Desert*.