

BIOL 356 Ecology and Evolution Lab (Fall 2009)

Instructor : Dr. Jim Barron, office – Rm 132 Science, 657-2918
Office Hours: MWF 10:30-11:30; Also By Appointment or Walk In ANYTIME
Email: jbarron@msubillings.edu

Textbook: *Ecology on Campus* by Kingsolver PLUS downloaded labs from departmental website:
<http://www.msubillings.edu/sciencefaculty/Fall%202009%20handouts.htm>

Expected Outcomes and Assessment (i.e. objectives and grading): The primary objectives in this course are to teach you some ecological methods and techniques, and to help you develop scientific writing and critical thinking skills. To assess how well you are meeting these objectives, you will be graded on several lab reports (20 pts each), one presentation (20 pts) and one scientific paper review (50 pts). Grades will be based partly on the mechanics of writing (spelling, grammar, etc.), partly on the understanding and correct application of the techniques, and partly on the organization, support for the stated argument, and originality of the papers. There will be no exams or quizzes in lab. Your grade will be determined by your percentage of the total available points (which at this time is indeterminate – but will probably be approximately 210 points: 7 lab reports, the presentation, and the review paper). Attendance at labs will also count – if you miss a lab, I will deduct 5 points from your overall score each time (no matter what the reason).

Grades are guaranteed: 90-100%=A; 80-89%=B; 70-79%=C; 60-69%=D; below 60%=F
I **may** use minus (-) grades at my discretion if I feel it is warranted. In all cases, these would only help you. For example, a score of 69 should be a D, but I may give it a C-. A score of 70 will always be a solid C. I will not use plus (+) grades.

Extra Credit - I will not accept ANY 'extra credit' reports or other special projects for the purpose of raising grades. Please do not ask me if you can do a special project for extra credit to raise your grade. Instead, put that effort into the reports in the first place. **USE THE T.A. (Justin Harper)!**

Academic Misconduct: I WILL NOT TOLERATE CHEATING OR PLAGIARISM. A student caught cheating will receive a zero on the exam, potentially an F in the course, and a referral to the Student Affairs office.

Late Lab Reports – Lab Reports are due by the end of class on the due date. Late reports will be docked 25% per day, unless you and I had a previous agreement that you would turn it in late. Don't simply show up and claim that "the computer broke" or something like that. Do the report far enough in advance that glitches like broken computers can be worked around in time.

Students with disabilities, whether psychological, physical or learning, who believe they may need accommodations in this class, are encouraged to meet with Disability Support Services located in the Academic Support Center. Students who are registered with DSS and need accommodations in this class should meet with me early in the semester.

LAB SCHEDULE FOR BIOL 356 (FALL 2009)

Date	Topic
	WEEK 1 NO LAB
	WEEK 2
Sept. 14	Lab 1. Describing a Population (EOC – Lab 1 Method B; Modifications to this lab)
	WEEK 3
Sept. 21	Lab 2. Ecological Studies and Allometric Relationships (EOC – Lab 2 Method C; Downloaded lab 2) Lab 1 Report Due on WED
	WEEK 4
Sept. 28	Lab 3 – Water Quality Analysis – lab work with samples from river
	WEEK 5
Oct. 5	Lab 4 – Water Quality Analysis – field work at Riverfront Park Lab 2 Report Due on WED
Oct. 12	Lab 5 –Statistical Analysis and Testing (downloaded - no EOC lab this week)
	WEEK 7
Oct. 19	Lab 6 – Spatial Pattern (EOC Lab 7 Methods A and C)
	WEEK 8
Oct. 26	Ditch Collection Lab 5 Report Due on WED
	WEEK 9
Nov. 2	Lab 7 – Predators and Prey (EOC Lab 11 – Method C) Lab 6 Report Due on WED – this will be an abbreviated report
	WEEK 10
Nov. 9	Lab 8 – Estimating Population Size: (Downloaded Lab plus EOC Lab 3 Method A) (Library for Papers) Lab 7 Report Due on FRI
	WEEK 11
Nov. 16	Lab 9 – Population Genetics (Downloaded lab plus EOC lab 6 method A)
	WEEK 12
Nov. 23	Lab 10 – Island Biogeography (EOC lab 18 method A) Lab 8 Report Due on WED
	WEEK 13
Nov. 30	Presentations
	WEEK 14
Dec. 7	Presentations Lab 10 Report Due
