BSC 307.01B ECOLOGY
COURSE SYLLABUS

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Jeff Kopachena, Dept. of Biological Sciences
Office Location: Science Building, Rm. 258
Office hours: Wed-Thurs 10:00-12:00 or by Appointment
University Email: Jeff.Kopachena@tamuc.edu

Preferred Communication: Email, **DO NOT TRY TO CALL ON THE PHONE!!**
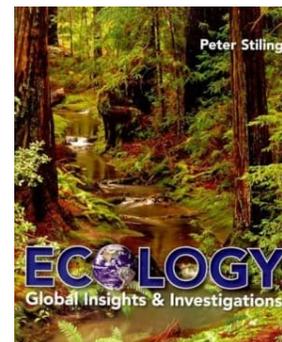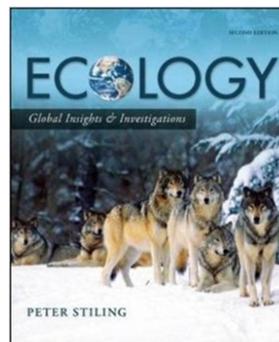
COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook (Required):

Ecology: Global Insights and Investigations 2nd Edition
Author: Peter Stiling, 2nd Edition

ISBN-13: 978-0073532509
ISBN-10: 0073532509

Please make sure you get the correct edition!

Your book might have either of the two covers shown here

Attendance:

Any student with 5 or more missed due dates will be dropped from the class. Students will be notified through their MyLeo account.

Course Catalog Description:

Ecology is the study of living things and their interaction with their environment. This class takes a hierarchical look at ecological processes from ecosystems to populations. Specific topics include the flow of energy and matter through global and local ecosystems, factors affecting production and biodiversity, zones of tolerance, ecological succession, ecotones and ecoclines, community ecology, niche theory, population models, and evolutionary arms races.

Course Topics:

Mainly theoretical ecology.

A. Physiological Ecology (Abiotic Factors) (ch. 6, 7):
Water, Nutrients
B. Populations (ch. 9, 10):
Demography, life tables, population growth
C. Species Interactions (ch 11, 13, 16):
Competition, predation, population regulation
D. Communities (ch 17, 20):
Diversity, richness, community services
E. Biomes (ch 22, 24):
Terrestrial biomes, freshwater biomes
F. Ecosystems (ch 25, 27)
Food webs, energy flow, biomass production, biogeochemical cycles

Outcomes and Assessment:

Students will be expected to demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of basic ecological principles. They are also expected to be able to write in scientific style.

Students will be assessed for these outcomes through online and in-class tests, a comprehensive final exam, written reports, and participation in in-class activities.

Specific Student Learning Outcomes (SLO's):

1. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the flow of energy through ecosystems
2. Students will demonstrate knowledge of community ecology
3. Students will demonstrate knowledge of population ecology

Grade distribution (Please consult calendar below for due dates):

Assessment type	Format	% Each	Total %
13 Chapter quizzes	Multiple Choice - online	1%	13%
6 Theme Tests	Multiple Choice – online	8.3%	50%
Final Exam	Multiple Choice – online	25%	25%
Mini Essays and Exercises	Written – submit online	n/a*	12%
Total			100%

*Number of Mini Essays and Exercises is yet to be determined. See description below.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

1. **Missing Deadlines**: Any student with 5 or more missed deadlines will be automatically dropped from the class. Students will be notified through their MyLeo account. **Late assignments will not be accepted.**

2. **Failing to keep track of the schedule**: Make sure you keep track of the class schedule and get all tests and assignments turned in on time. If you miss a Chapter quiz it will not be re-opened for you. All the Chapter quizzes are open from the start of the semester, so there is no conceivable reason why a Chapter quiz should be reopened for you. **Under no circumstances will late assignments be accepted.**

4. **Procrastination**: All students are responsible for having secure and reliable internet service. Nonetheless, internet services can be unpredictable at times. For this reason, DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO TAKE CHAPTER QUIZS OR TURN IN ASSIGNMENTS.   If you turn in an assignment or try to take a Chapter quiz after 11:00 PM on the last day that it is due and your internet connection fails for whatever reason, I will not re-open the assignment or quiz and you will lose points for that assignment or quiz.

5. **Failing to keep your professor informed**: I am willing to make accommodations where permissible according to university policies, but I will not make accommodations after the fact. So, if you know that you are going to a medical school interview, or some similar important event, let me know BEFORE you go and provide documentation.

6. **Failing to show up for class**. Every class meeting involves an activity that is graded. Failing to attend class will cause you to lose points. **There will be no exceptions.**

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

1. Must use the learning management system (D2L)
2. Must be able to use MS-Word, MS-PowerPoint, and MS-Excel

    DO NOT, EVER, USE GOOGLE DOCS!!!

3. Must be able to read and using scientific style
4. Must be able to use a calendar and keep up with due dates
5. Must be able to communicate via

email and **NOT THE PHONE!**
6. Must have a Wi-Fi capable laptop with MS-Office 365 loaded on to it.

Details about graded items:

Chapter quizzes
There are 13 Chapter quizzes that you will complete in D2L. Please consult the schedule for due dates. In order to take the Chapter quizzes, you must log in to D2L.

For each Chapter quiz there will be 10 multiple choice questions based on material from the textbook. You will have 10 minutes to complete the test. You can take the test twice and the highest grade will be recorded. However, you can only do that if you complete the test prior to the due date. Make sure you keep track of the due dates and complete the tests **well in advance** of the due dates.

Theme Tests
There are six theme tests that you must complete over the course of the semester. You must take the test on the date indicated. These tests are not open in advance and will not be open for more than one day. Consult the schedule to make sure you know when the test dates are.

Each theme test covers multiple chapters. Consult the calendar to make sure you know which chapters are on each theme test. Each them test will consist of 30 multiple choice questions and you have 50 minutes to complete the test. **YOU CANNOT TAKE A THEME TEST MORE THAN ONCE**. The test material will come from both the textbook and the course PowerPoint lectures. Make sure that you access and study the course PowerPoints prior to taking the theme tests. The theme tests are open book, so have your textbook and your PowerPoints available when you take your tests.

Final Exam
The final exam is comprehensive. It will include all of the material covered by all of the theme tests. It will consist of 80 multiple choice questions and you will have two hours to complete it.

Mini Essays and Exercises
Over the course of the semester, you will receive a variety of mini essays and other exercises. These essays and exercises are meant to demonstrate how ecological methods work and the relevance of ecology to current societal issues. For the mini essays you will receive an article to read and you will write no more than one page over that material. Specific instructions will be given when the essay is assigned. There may be other exercises that require you to calculate or solve a problem. Instructions will be provided when these are assigned. Several exercises will be in class, so you must attend on that day or you will lose any points for that exercise.

Days that we meet in class are highlighted in YELLOW

Ecology 01B – Calendar

August

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
24	25 First Class Day	26	27 Introduction	28	29	30 Chapter 6 Water Quiz
31						

September

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day	2	3	4	5	6 Chapter 7 Nutrients Quiz
7	8	9	10 Desert Plants Exercise	11 Chapter 6,7 Theme Test	12	13 Chapter 9 Life Tables Quiz
14	15	16	17 Life Tables Exercise	18	19	20 Chapter 10 Pop Growth Quiz
21	22	23	24	25 Chapter 9,10 Theme Test	26	27 Chapter 11 Competition Quiz
28	29	30				

October

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Chapter 13 Predation Quiz
5	6	7	8 Competition Exercise	9	10	11 Chapter 16 Pop. Reg. Quiz
12	13	14	15	16 Chapter 11, 13, 16 Theme Test	17	18 Chapter 17 Diversity Quiz
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Chapter 20 Succession Quiz
26	27	28	29 Community Exercise	30 (Drop Date) Chapter 17,20 Theme Test	31	

November

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1 Chapter 22 Biomes I Quiz
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Chapter 24 Biomes II Quiz
9	10	11	12	13 Chapter 22,24 Theme Test	14	15 Chapter 25 Food Webs Quiz
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Chapter 27 Cycles Quiz
23	24	25	26	27 Thanks-giving	28 Thanks-giving	29
30						

December

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 Chapter 25,27 Theme Test	5	6
7	8 Final Exam	9 Exit Test	10	11	12	13

Obligatory Statements:

**Disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the schedule of the class. Any alterations will be announced in D2L or via email by the instructor. Students who do not attend class, check eCollege or their email assume responsibility for missing adjustments to the course.

AI use in course

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements

and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty
13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Browser support

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact D2L Support, who will determine the best course of action for resolution. Reported issues are prioritized by supported browsers and then maintenance browsers.

Supported browsers are the latest or most recent browser versions that are tested against new versions of D2L products. Customers can report problems and receive support for issues. For an optimal experience, D2L recommends using supported browsers with D2L products.

Maintenance browsers are older browser versions that are not tested extensively against new versions of D2L products. Customers can still report problems and receive support for critical issues; however, D2L does not guarantee all issues will be addressed. A maintenance browser becomes officially unsupported after one year.

Note the following:

- Ensure that your browser has JavaScript and Cookies enabled.
- For desktop systems, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.1 or greater.
- The Brightspace Support features are now optimized for production environments when using the Google Chrome browser, Apple Safari browser, Microsoft Edge browser, Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and Mozilla Firefox browsers.

Desktop Support

Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)	Maintenance Browser Version(s)
Microsoft® Edge	Latest	N/A
Microsoft® Internet Explorer®	N/A	11
Mozilla® Firefox®	Latest, ESR	N/A
Google® Chrome™	Latest	N/A
Apple® Safari®	Latest	N/A

Tablet and Mobile Support

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
Android™	Android 4.4+	Chrome	Latest
Apple	iOS®	Safari, Chrome	The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or **point** release of that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or **point** release of that major version). For example, as of June 7, 2017, D2Lsupports iOS 10.3.2 and iOS 9.3.5, but not iOS 10.2.1, 9.0.2, or any other version. Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser.

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
Windows	Windows 10	Edge, Chrome, Firefox	Latest of all browsers, and Firefox ESR.

- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
    - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
    - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
    - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution

- You must have a:
    - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
    - Speakers or headphones.
    - *For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.

- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: JAVA web site http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp

- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.

Pop-ups are allowed.

JavaScript is enabled.

Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
    - Adobe Reader https://get.adobe.com/reader/
    - Adobe Flash Player *(version 17 or later)* https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/

- Adobe Shockwave Player   https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/
- Apple Quick Time   http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/

- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Brightspace Support

Need Help?

Student Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words "click here" to submit an issue via email.

System Maintenance

Please note that on the 4th Sunday of each month there will be System Maintenance which means the system will not be available 12 pm-6 am CST.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Please communicate via email. I am in front of a computer almost all day long, so if you want to communicate with me, email is the best way. Generally, I can respond within a few hours. I am generally unavailable for quick responses after 5:00 and on weekends.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Procrastination Penalty

All students are responsible for having secure and reliable internet service. Nonetheless, internet services can be unpredictable at times. For this reason, **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO TAKE QUIZZES OR TURN IN ASSIGNMENTS.**   If you turn in an assignment or try to take a quiz after 11:00 PM, I will not re-open the assignment or quiz and you will lose points for that assignment or quiz.

Syllabus Change Policy
The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures
Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook.

http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: Netiquette http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage and Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01.

http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf

Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf

ADA Statement

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:
http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.