



BSC 307-01B ECOLOGY

COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2026 CRN: 20567

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Walter Paulin Taponjou Nkonmeneck

Class Location: Science Building 136

Office Location : STC 208

Office Hours: MWF 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (By appointment, meeting either via Zoom link or in person)

Office Phone: (903) 886-5221

University Email Address: walter.taponjou@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: **email**

Communication Response Time: less than 48hr

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbooks:

Required: Ecology 6th ed (2023). W.D. Bowman, and S.D. Hacker; Sinauer Associates, Print ISBN: 9780197614044 (other editions are also okay)

Additional Texts and/or Materials:

A selection of readings from the primary scientific literature will be provided throughout the semester.

Course 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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, we expect that you will be able to:

1. Read, interpret, analyze, and explain primary literature that concerns ecology
2. Identify and interpret basic ecological concepts through data derived from observation, experimentation, and modeled simulation
3. Design and critique experiments and approaches to test hypotheses
4. Develop predictions, based on real data, for how an ecological system should behave, and apply your knowledge to novel scenarios

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

- Proficiency in using the D2L Brightspace Learning Management System through myLeo Online.
- Proficiency in the use of Microsoft Word, and PowerPoint.
- Bring a scientific calculator to all exams, one that can perform log and In functions and exponents (for example TI-30XI \$10 at Staples or Target).

Graphic calculators are not allowed.

Instructional Methods

The course will meet in person eight times this semester, on Tuesdays. During class time, we will integrate the ecological concepts from the readings into discussions. I will emphasize the key ecological ideas and introduce terms not explicitly discussed in the text. While I will provide some definitions, you will primarily be responsible for acquiring definitions from the text. This approach will allow us to allocate class time to engage with more intricate ecological concepts, such as developing an ecological worldview, designing ecological experiments, and manipulating mathematical ecological equations.

I encourage you to actively participate in class discussions by posing questions. Throughout the term, I will also pose questions to facilitate further exploration of the topics. Please maintain respect for your classmates, refrain from monopolizing discussion periods, and ensure that you conduct yourself appropriately during discussions.

I will post announcements on the course homepage to remind students of important due dates, in addition to announcing them in class. Students can monitor their progress in the course on the course webpage in D2L Brightspace.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

- Attend all in-person classes is mandatory ()

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- Dedicated study time each week to go over the materials covered in the class and the information in the relevant book chapter(s).
- Regularly checking both myLEO Online (D2L Brightspace) and emails for course-related announcements.
- Actively participate by asking questions in class/office hours
- Completing assignments on time. **Late assignments will be penalized by 10% of the grade.**

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100% B = 80%-89% C = 70%-79% D = 60%-69% F = 59% or Below

Assessments

Exams

Exams will be in person. There will be a total of three exams, including the final exam. Each Exam will cover the material seen before and will not overlap with the material covered in the previous exam. Exam questions will be based on lectures and readings. Exams will primarily include definition, multiple choice question, short answers, and problem-solving questions. The best study guide for the exams will be your own class notes. If you miss an exam, it is your responsibility to contact me regarding the possibility and policy of a make-up; these will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Unit Homework

Each unit will have an online homework assignment due before meeting in class. There will be seven unit homeworks, and your lowest grade will be dropped.

Lecture Short Quiz

A total of 24 online lectures will be provided. Following each video, you will be required to complete a short quiz consisting of short answer and multiple-choice questions.

Class Attendance

Attendance in class is mandatory. At the commencement of the semester, each student is assigned 40 points for attendance. Every missed class will result in a deduction of 5 points.

Assessments

You will be assessed based on the grades from the unit homework, lecture short quiz, in-person class attendance, and the three exams. Below is a breakdown of potential grades that can be earned in the class:

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<i>Assignment</i>	Max point	Times	Points
<i>Exams</i>	100	3	300
<i>Unit Homework</i>	30	7*	180*
<i>Lecture Short Quiz</i>	5	24	120
<i>Class Attendance</i>	5	8	40
<i>Total</i>			640

* Lowest Unit homework grade will be dropped

Make-up policy

Make-up will only be given if arrangements are made with the instructor before missing the scheduled quiz. A documented excuse will be required. Otherwise, missing assignments will be counted as zeroes in the overall grade computation.

Course Outline/Calendar

Tentative Course schedule: *(adjustments may be made later at instructor's discretion)

Week	Date	Topic	Heads up
1	13-Jan	Syllabus overview, Introduction (Tree of life)	Ch 1
2			
3	27-Jan	Unit 1: Organisms and Their Environment	Ch 2, 3, 4, 5
4			
5	10-Feb	Unit 2: Evolutionary Ecology	Ch 6, 7, 8
6		Exam 1	
7	24-Feb	Unit 3: Populations	Ch 9, 10, 11
8			
9	10-Mar	Spring Break	Campus closed
10	17-Mar	Unit 4: Species Interactions	Ch 12, 13, 14, 15
11		Exam 2	
12	31-Mar	Unit 5: Communities	Ch 16, 17, 18, 19
13			
14	14-Apr	Unit 6: Ecosystems	Ch 20, 21, 22
15			
16	28-Apr	Unit 7: Applied and Large-Scale Ecology	Ch 23, 24, 25
17	8-May	Exam 3	

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COURSE OUTLINE

Unit 1. Organisms and Their Environment

2. The Physical Environment
3. The Biosphere
4. Coping with Environmental Variation: Temperature and Water
5. Coping with Environmental Variation: Energy

Unit 2. Evolutionary Ecology

6. Evolution and Ecology
7. Life History
8. Behavioral Ecology

Unit 3. Populations

9. Population Distribution and Abundance
10. Population Dynamics
11. Population Growth and Regulation

Unit 4. Species Interactions

12. Predation
13. Parasitism
14. Competition
15. Mutualism and Commensalism

Unit 5. Communities

16. The Nature of Communities
17. Change in Communities
18. Biogeography
19. Species Diversity in Communities

Unit 6. Ecosystems

20. Production
21. Energy Flow and Food Webs
22. Nutrient Supply and Cycling

Unit 7. Applied and Large-Scale Ecology

23. Conservation Biology
24. Landscape Ecology and Ecosystem Management
25. Global Ecology

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TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

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@etamu.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

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. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COURSE

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

CWID and Password

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@etamu.edu.

Technology-Related Issues

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 ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students will need reliable computer and internet access for this course. Students must be able to effectively use myLeo email, myLeo Online D2L, and Microsoft Office.

Learning Management System (LMS) – D2L

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are the technical requirements:

- View the [Learning Management System Requirements Webpage](#).
- Learn more on the [LMS Browser Support Webpage](#).

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found on the [Brightspace Support Webpage](#).

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor. Correspondence will always be through university email (your “myLeo” mail) and announcements in myLeo online (D2L). You will not RECEIVE email through D2L, so be sure to check your ETAMU email for communication. Students are encouraged to check university email daily.

Include the Following in Emails with Instructor:

- Course name and subject in the subject line
- Salutation (Good afternoon, Dr. Jackson)
- Proper email etiquette (no “text” emails – use proper grammar and punctuation)
- Student name and CWID after the body of the email (possibly add to student signature on email)

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

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.

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 online in the [Student Guidebook](#).

Students should also consult the [Rules of Netiquette Webpage](#) for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum.

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy, please view the [Attendance Webpage](#) and the [Class Attendance Policy](#)

Academic Integrity

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

Use of Artificial Intelligence

East Texas A&M University 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

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

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

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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

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Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Services](#)

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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 ETAMU 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.

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

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health – Counseling Services

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.

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As an Institutional Member of the National Association of Schools of Music, East Texas State A&M University supports the Association's commitment to student health and wellness. The following web address provides links to information for resources related to physical and mental well-being, as well as assists in offering preventative measures that students can take to avoid serious and/or chronic conditions: [Musician Health and Safety - East Texas A&M University](#)

Department and Accrediting Agency Statements:

School of Music Mission Statement:

The School of Music at East Texas A&M University promotes excellence in music through the rigorous study of music history, literature, theory, composition, pedagogy, and the preparation of music performance in applied study and ensembles to meet the highest standards of aesthetic expression.

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