

Valdosta State University
Department of Biology
BIOL 3250, Sections A-C: Ecology & Evolution
Course Syllabus, Fall 2024

Instructor: Dr. Erin Grabarczyk

Office: Bailey Science Center (BSC) 2216

Office Phone: 229.333.7380

E-mail: egrabarczyk@valdosta.edu

In-person office hours: Wednesday 12-2PM, Thursday 12:20-1:20, or by appointment.

Virtual office hours: Monday 8AM-10AM on TEAMS, or by appointment.

Lecture: TR 2-3:15PM, BSC 1023

Labs: Tuesday 9:30-12:20 (Section A), Wednesday 9-11:50 (Section B), Thursday 9:30-12:20 (Section C)

Recommended text: Ecology: The Experimental Analysis of Distribution and Abundance (6th Edition). Charles Krebs
AND any general textbook on evolution:

Herron JC, Freeman S. Evolutionary Analysis. Pearson.

Bergstrom CT. Evolution. Norton.

Futuyama DJ. Evolution. Sinauer Associates, Inc.

Hall BK. Evolution Principles and Processes. Jones and Barlett.

Ridley M, Evolution. Blackwell.

Course overview

BIOL 3250. Ecology and Evolution. 4 Hours.

Prerequisites: [BIOL 1107](#), [1107L](#), [BIOL 1108](#), [1108L](#), and [BIOL 3200](#).

An introduction to major topics in ecology and evolution, including population, community, and ecosystem ecology; Darwinian theory of evolution through natural selection; microevolution and macroevolution. Computer and field labs will provide exposure to both evolutionary theory and field ecology.

Standards

Education outcomes for BS Degree in Biology: 1, 2, & 5. VSU General Education Outcomes: 3, 4, 5, & 7.

Class Policies

- **Classroom etiquette:** Please be on time. Please turn off your cell phone. If you are disrupting the class, I will ask you to leave. Do not use the internet in class unless the lab requires it. Be respectful of yourself, your classmates, and your instructor.
- **Ask questions:** If you have a question or don't understand something please let me know. I am more than willing to take as much time as necessary to help you understand a concept, but you have to let me know.
- **Late work:** Once during the semester you may turn in late work for full credit. I will give you 48 hours to submit your work, no questions asked. Your assignment needs to be submitted on BlazeVIEW. After your one late work turn-in, late assignments will not be accepted for credit.
- **Email:** Use your VSU account for e-mail communication.

- **Lab completion:** Lab attendance is mandatory and you must complete every lab in order to receive points for both lab participation as well as the assignment for that week. If you are more than 30 minutes late to a laboratory session, your assignment will not be accepted that day (that is, you will be counted absent).
- **Cheating:** You are responsible for making yourself aware of and understanding the policies and procedures in the Undergraduate Catalogs that pertain to Academic Honesty. These policies include cheating, fabrication, falsification and forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity and computer misuse. [The policies can be found at <http://valdosta.edu> under Student Code of Conduct.] If there is reason to believe you have been involved in academic dishonesty, you will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. You will be given the opportunity to review the charge(s). If you believe you are not responsible, you will have the opportunity for a hearing. You should consult with your instructor if you are uncertain about an issue of academic honesty prior to the submission of an assignment or test. All forms of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to collusion, fabrication, cheating and plagiarism are worthy of punishment according to the policy set forth by Valdosta State University. This includes doing your own work on lab assignments. While you are allowed to brainstorm with each other, it is expected that your answers are your own. Any assignments turned in with plagiarism or that are someone else's work will receive zero points. **I will not tolerate any form of cheating.**
- **GroupMe Policy:** As a class, you may decide whether or not you would like to have a GroupMe chat. However, Dr. G must be included in the chat as a moderator. Any chats for your section that do not include Dr. G will be reported and deleted.
- **Extra credit:** There will be no extra credit offered during the semester.
- **Field trip attire:** Throughout semester we will collect data and run experiments outside. On days we are outside, I recommend you wear walking shoes and dress for the weather. **Acceptable clothes include pants, socks, and comfortable walking shoes. You may wish to bring a hat, insect repellent, drinking water, and wear sunscreen.**

AI: VSU's **Academic Student Conduct Code** states that "no student shall engage in plagiarism, which is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were the student's own." Content generated by an Artificial Intelligence third-party service or site (AI-generated content) without proper citation is another form of plagiarism. If you are unsure about whether something may be plagiarism or another form of academic dishonesty, please reach out to me as soon as possible. Any assignments turned in with writing completed by AI will receive zero points.

Accommodation Statement: Students with disabilities who are experiencing barriers in this course may contact the Access Office (<https://www.valdosta.edu/student/disability/>) for assistance in determining and implementing reasonable accommodations. The Access Office is located in University Center Room 4136 Entrance 5. The phone numbers are 229-245-2498 (V), 229-375-5871. For more information, please visit VSU's Access Office or email: access@valdosta.edu. To request reasonable accommodations for pregnancy and childbirth, contact Ms. Myia Miller, Title IX Compliance Officer, at maburden@valdosta.edu. Please note, you will be required to provide documentation from an appropriately licensed medical professional indicating the requested accommodations are medically necessary.

Title IX Statement: Valdosta State University (VSU) upholds all applicable laws and policies regarding discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment and pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, religion, age, veteran status, political affiliation, or disability. The University prohibits specific forms of behavior that violate Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities that receive federal funding. VSU considers sex discrimination in any form to be a serious offense. Title IX refers to all forms of sex discrimination committed against others, including but not limited to: sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, and sexual violence by other employees, students or third parties and gender inequity or unfair treatment based on an individual's sex/gender. The designated Title IX Coordinator for VSU is Ms. Selenseia Holmes.

To view the full policy or to report an incident visit: <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/title-ix/>

Grading Scale:

Letter	%	Points
A	90-100	603-670
B	80-89	536-602
C	70-79	469-535
D	60-69	402-468
F	<60	<402

Assessments:

3 Exams (100 points each)

Final exam (150 points)

Quizzes (5 points each)

Lab (175 points)

Here's another way to think about your grade:

	Total points	% grade
Exams	300	44.7%
Final Exam	150	22.3%
Quizzes	45	6.7%
Lab	175	26.1%

Exam Dates:

1. Thursday, September 19th
2. Thursday, October 10th
3. Thursday, November 14th
4. Final Exam: Wednesday, December 11th, 2:45 – 4:45PM

Tentative Lab Schedule*

Week of	Lab	Lab topic	<i>In-class</i> and take-home assignment(s)**
Aug 19	1	Sound walk & scavenger hunt – outside!	<i>Scavenger hunt (5 pts), QEP (5 pts), Sound bar (5 pts)</i>
Aug 26	2	Grand Bay field day – outside!	Reflection (15 pts)
Sept 2	-	No lab this week	-
Sept 9	3	Lake Louise field day – outside!	<i>Field data (5 pts), Enviro Report (15 pts)</i>
Sept 16	4	Natural selection	<i>Lab (10 pts)</i>
Sept 23	5	Phylogenetic inference	<i>QEP (20 pts), Lab (10 pts)</i>
Sept 30	6	Island Lizards	<i>Lab (10 pts)</i>
Oct 7	7	Climate change modeling, PRJA search	<i>Lab (10 pts)</i>
Oct 14	-	No lab this week	
Oct 21	8	Field ecology – outside!	<i>Lab (10 pts), Group summary (20 pts)</i>
Oct 28	9	Field ecology, continued – outside!	
Nov 4	10	Demography – outside!	<i>Lab (10 pts)</i>
Nov 11	11	Project work day	Final report (20 pts)
Nov 18	12	De-extinction	Species assessment (10 pts)
Nov 25	-	No lab this week	
Dec 2	13	Campus mist netting – outside!	

*Weather permitting. An updated lab schedule will be posted on the course BlazeView page if we need to re-arrange weekly topics.

Assignments listed in *italics* are due at the end of that lab session (i.e. you will complete the assignment during lab), assignments listed in **bold font will be due the following week at the beginning of lab.

Tentative Lecture Schedule*

Week of	Krebs Chpt**	Lecture topics	Assessment
Aug 19	**	Introduction to course, Evolution	In class activity
Aug 26	**	Natural selection, Bloom & Blast	Quiz 1 due 8/26/24 @ 11:59PM
Sept 2	**	Patterns of selection, Other evolutionary processes	Quiz 2 due 9/2/24 @ 11:59PM
Sept 9	**	Other evolutionary processes, Sexual selection	Quiz 3 due 9/9/24 @ 11:59PM
Sept 16	**	Systematics & Phylogenetics, Exam 1	Exam 1 on 9/19/24
Sept 23	**	Macroevolution, RIM	-
Sept 30	1, 4-7	Co-evolution, A VERY brief intro to Ecology, Geographic distributions	Quiz 4 due 9/30/24 @ 11:59PM
Oct 7	22-25	Ecosystem cycles, Exam 2	Exam 2 on 10/10/24
Oct 14	22-25	Fall break , Ecosystem cycles	-
Oct 21	3	Behavioral Ecology, Group Presentations	Quiz 5 due 10/21/24 @ 11:59PM
Oct 28	8-9	Plasticity, Population Ecology	Quiz 6 due 10/28/24 @ 11:59PM
Nov 4	8-13	Population Ecology, Community Ecology	Quiz 7 due 11/4/24 @ 11:59PM
Nov 11	18-19	Community Ecology, Exam 3	Exam 3 on 11/14/24
Nov 18	17	Landscape Ecology, Conservation Biology	-
Nov 25	17	Conservation Biology	Quiz 8 due 11/25/24 @ 11:59PM
Dec 2	n/a	Sustainability	-

*Subject to change.

** Chapter numbers will vary depending on your selected Evolution textbook (see above). Work with Dr. G to identify the specific chapters to read for each weekly topic.