

General Ecology LAB – BIO3409

[Lab Sections 03, 04, 05, 06]

Location and Times:

3409.03 – Mon 11:00 – 1:50: LDB130

3409.04 – Wed 2:00 – 4:50: LDB130

3409.05 – Mon 11:00 – 1:50: LDB130

3409.06 – Wed 2:00 – 4:50: LDB130

(or the Field Station)

Credit Hours: 1 of 4

Instructor: Mallika Beach - Mehrotra

Office: LDB 342

Email: mrb099@shsu.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday: 12:00-1:30 pm or by appointment

Course Description and Objectives: Ecology lab will provide applications to the major ecological principles covered in lecture. Upon completion, students will have a basic level of experience for experimental techniques in ecology labs. Additionally, students will enhance their technical writing (or science writing) skills and become familiar with basic data analysis in Microsoft applications. Overall, the lab section of General Ecology will provide students' skills that are relevant to post-graduate work in science and will enhance competitiveness in the workforce. The mandatory laboratory portion of this class will reinforce, using a hands-on approach, the 4 major areas of ecological study (i.e., organism, population, community, and ecosystem). For each area of ecology, we will conduct a complete scientific study following the specific steps of the scientific method. You will be required to actively participate in each step for your grade.

A majority of these labs are held at the Center for Biological Field Studies. Be prepared to be outside and in the elements. This is an ecology lab and we will be getting our hands dirty.

BlackBoard and Email: I will communicate with the class using email via Blackboard (Bb) and email. Thus, I expect you to check your email regularly for information regarding the class. Missing an email announcement is not an excuse for missing an assignment. Moreover, I will post general information about assignments and labs on Bb. It is your responsibility to obtain these documents and to learn how to navigate Bb, upload assignments to Bb, etc. Assignments, documents, and grading will be on the lab-specific sections of Bb - which are titled by your lab section.

Text: *No Text Required – Library Access may be necessary.*

On-Line Component: This course may include some online components. The on-line activities will include lecture movies and you-tube videos and readings that further explain ecological topics/principals.

Attendance: Attendance in this class and laboratory is mandatory, expected, and often is directly correlated with a passing grade. If you want to understand and learn ecology, don't miss lab.

Absence and Make-up Policy: Any points for assignments, participation, or labs missed as a result of an absence cannot be made-up. The only exception is if the absence is planned and approved by the instructor at least **14 days** prior to the date of absence. In this case an alternative assignment will be given and turned in before the absence. No late assignments will be accepted.

Grading: The lab will be scaled to 400 points, then will make up 25% of your total course grade at the end (25% lab + 75% lecture). There will be a weekly assignment based on the previous week's lab activities. If lab is missed one week, the assignment cannot be accepted the following week. If students are coming unprepared to labs, I may start giving pre-lab quizzes, which will be incorporated into total grade.

Some lab activities will take place at the Center for Biological Field Studies. When in the field, each student should dress appropriately, i.e., no sandals or flip-flops. Rather, each student should purchase an inexpensive pair of rubber boots or hip waders. Boots, long pants and long-sleeve shirts are ideal for fieldwork. There are venomous snakes, ticks, and chiggers at the field station, so proper attire is necessary.

GENERAL ECOLOGY – TENTATIVE LAB SCHEDULE SPRING 2017

Date	Topic	Location
22 Jan 24 Jan	Orientation/Syllabus; Lab Safety, Expectations -	LBD 130
29 Jan 31 Jan	Field Station Observation	CBFS
05 Feb 07 Feb	Organismal Ecology Pt. 1	LBD 130
12 Feb 15 Feb	Ecological Field Techniques	CBFS
19 Feb 21 Feb	Organismal Ecology Pt. 2	TBD
26 Feb 28 Feb	Population Life Tables	Oakwood Cemetery
05 Mar 07 Mar	Population Ecology – Population Dispersion	CBFS
12 Mar 14 Mar	No labs – Spring Break	
19 Mar 21 Mar	Predator – Prey Species Interactions	CBFS
26 Mar 28 Mar	Predation Risk	LBD 130
02 Apr 04 Apr	Community Ecology - Species Diversity	CBFS
09 Apr 11 Apr	Food Chains/Webs	TBD
16 Apr 18 Apr	Data Analysis	
23 Apr 25 Apr	Ecosystem Metabolism	LBD 130
30 Apr 02 May	Final Paper Due	LBD 130

*Note: Lab dates may change at the direction of the instructor.

Academic Dishonesty: I expect all students to maintain honesty and integrity in this class. Any student found guilty of dishonesty will be subject to disciplinary action. Academic dishonesty includes cheating on exams, copying others work, and pasting text directly from the internet (i.e., plagiarism), etc. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

Any form of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of zero for the entire semester.

Cell Phone Use: Cell phone use and text messaging during class hours is prohibited. Please turn off ringers during class. If a call or text is necessary please quietly leave the classroom to do so. Failure to comply with the above will result in expulsion from the classroom. Phones or other similar devices should not be present during testing. Use of these devices during a test is considered de facto evidence of cheating.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail disability@shsu.edu). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

Visitors in the Classroom: Visitors (i.e., not registered students) attending the class must be approved by the instructor, and must not cause any disruption to registered students.

Audit: You must have the instructor's permission to audit this course, and auditing students must apply through the Registrar's office.