Summer I - 2008
General Ecology 340
Syllabus
(Section 001 – Lecture and Lab)

Location: Lecture LDB 220; Lab LDB 130
Lecture Time: MTWRF 8:00-9:50pm
Lab Time: MW: 2-4:50pm.
Credit Hours: 4

Instructor: Dr. Chad Hargrave
Office: LDB 100B
Research Lab: LDB 102
Phone: office - 936-294-1543; cell - 405-326-3680
Email (preferred contact)**:** cwhargrave@shsu.edu

Office Hours: by appointment (i'll be in my lab usually)

BlackBoard and Email: I will communicate with the class using email via Blackboard (BB). 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, tests, and labs on BB. It is your responsibility to obtain these documents.

Course Description and Objectives: Ecology lecture will introduce the major ecological principles, concepts, and classical hypotheses dominating the field of ecology. As an introductory general ecology course, students should leave with a thorough understanding of the hierarchical nature of ecology, the dominating principles of this scientific field, how ecologists conduct research, and the importance of general ecological knowledge. Moreover, this class will help develop critical thinking, giving students the tools necessary to link ecological patterns/processes to current human activities.

Prerequisite: Minimum grade of C in BIO 161/111, 162/112

Text: *Ecology – Concepts and applications*; Fourth Edition; Manuel C. Molles, Jr.

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 class or lab.

Absence and Make-up Policy: Any points for assignments, participation, or exams 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 5 days prior to the date of absence. In this case an alternative assignment will be given and turned in before the absence.

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 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

Students with Disabilities: Any student with a disability that prevents participation in any class activity or assignment should immediately contact the instructor so that arrangements can be made to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

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.

Lecture Tests (200 pts): There will be two 100 point tests see schedule on final page.

Final Exam (100 pts): A comprehensive final, testing basic understanding and assimilation of lecture material will be given on 1 July 2008.

Lab Objectives: The mandatory laboratory portion of this class will reinforce, using a hands-on approach, the 4 major components of ecology (i.e., the organism, the population, the community, and the ecosystem). Research addressing each topic will be conducted in Harmon Creek, a stream located at the SHSU field station. This means each student should dress appropriately. 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.

Lab Presentation (100 pts): The lab section will be divided into 4 groups. Each group will give a single powerpoint presentation over one of the 4 experiments (to be assigned randomly). The presentation will be graded as a group, including overall effort, quality of the visual aids, effectiveness of verbal communication, introduction and background to the topic, presentation of data, summary of results, and group cooperation.

Lab Write-up (**100 pts**): Each student will write a summary over one lab. This summary will be a maximum of two single-spaced pages. This summary should introduce the experiment, give background to the topic, and explain and discuss the results. Additionally, the write-up will include graphs and/or tables (as additional pages) to help explain the data. The write-ups will be submitted via digital dropbox in BB. I will grade and edit the paper. You will have the opportunity to revise the first draft can be revised per my comments for your final score, which will include the original score plus up to half the points missed on the original draft. For example, assume you received a 50% on the original first draft, with perfect corrections on the revised draft, your final grade for the proposal would be 75%.

Grading: Grades will be assigned based on the following point system: A > 450 points, B = 400-449; C = 350-399; D = 300-349; F < 300. There will be no curve and no extra credit.

Assignment	Total Points	Tentative Dates
Lecture Tests	200	16 and 27 June
Comprehensive Final Exam	100	1 July
Lab Presentation	100	30 June
Lab Reports	100	17 June
Total Points	500	

Tentative Lecture and Lab Schedule

Week	Tentative Topic
5 & 6 June	**Introduction to Ecology**
9-11	**Abiotic Environment**

Monday; Outside Lab:
Wednesday; Organisms (Field Study)**:** Organisms

12 & 13 June	**Biomes**
16-18 June	**Organisms**

Monday; Outside Lab: Populations (Field Study)
Wednesday; Outside Lab: Populations (Field Study)

19 & 20 June	**Populations**
23-25 June	**Communities**

Monday; Outside Lab: Communities (Field Study)
Wednesday; Computer Lab: Communities

26 & 27 June	**Ecosystems**
30 June	**Human Impacts and Implications**
	Class Presentations