CLASS SYLLABUS BIOL 3250 ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION Fall 2017

CLASS TIME:	Lecture Rm. 2202	MW: 3:30-4:45 p.m.
	Lab Rm. 2073	M: 11:00 – 1:50 p.m.

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Colleen McDonough
OFFICE HOURS: stop in anytime except the hour before the start of my lectures M-R 3:30 p.m. or by appointment.
OFFICE: 2086 Bailey Science Center
PHONE: 333-5764 (my office), 333-5759 (main office)
EMAIL: cmcdonou@valdosta.edu
TEXTS: 1) Any evolution textbook should have the material I cover
2) Charles Krebs, 2009; Ecology 6th Ed. Benjamin Cummings, NY

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The objectives of the course are to
--cover evolutionary processes, modes of speciation, and mechanisms of micro- and macroevolution.
--examine biological principles at the organismal, population, community, and ecosystem levels of organization.
-- cover evolutionary and physiological processes that affect abundance and distribution of organisms
-- examine intraspecific and interspecific relationships such as competition and predation.
-- properties of communities and ecosystems such as energy flow and nutrient cycles.
Throughout the course
-- quantitative models are used to identify important variables and
-- principles of conservation are incorporated throughout

Standards
VSU General Education Outcomes on webpage:
(http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/VSUGeneralEducationOutcomes.shtml) This course meets outcomes 3., 4., 5. and 7.
Department of Biology Educational Outcomes: This course meets outcomes 1., 2. and 5.
PREREQUISITES (must be completed prior to course): BIOL 1107, 1108, and 3200 with grades of 'C' or better.
ATTENDANCE POLICY: For lecture, get the notes from another classmate if you miss a lecture. I do not take attendance. This does not mean that not attending class won't hurt your grade. In my experience those who do not attend lecture do not the high grades.

For laboratory, science is an act of doing. Therefore, you cannot get laboratory credit for not being present. You must attend all the laboratories of this course to earn points from those labs. That means that if you missed lab, you cannot hand in any assignment associated with that lab. There is only one section of this course, so it is critical that you attend the lab. If sick, you need a written excuse from a health professional. I will try to accommodate. Work must get done by the time the next week lab is held.
GRADING POLICY: Your grade will be based on a total of 535 points; 400 will come from lecture tests, 135 from lab assignments.

Course grade: Grades will be distributed according to the following percentages:
A > 90% (481 or above)
B - 80% (428-480)
C – 70% (374-427)
D - 60% (321-373)
F < 60% (<321)

Lecture tests: There will be 4 lecture tests during the regular semester. I will average those 4

do not take roll in lecture so, therefore, you can do these other computer activities outside the classroom. These activities within the classroom are disruptive to others (especially those sitting behind) and affect the learning environment. I reserve the right to ask you to leave if **you are doing anything that distracts me and/or others during lecture. Such activities might include activities mentioned above, texting, talking, or sleeping.**

PLAGARISM AND OTHER FORMS OF STEALING: Adhere to the policy listed on the Biology Department's website (http://www.valdosta.edu/biology/. See list of items under "FOR STUDENTS"). If caught cheating a student will be given a zero for the assignment or test and be reported to the dean of students. If caught a second time, they will fail the course. Note the paragraph stating that plagiarism will not be tolerated and has serious consequences. This is an issue of integrity and ethics. If you are so time stressed that you can't individually do the work required in this course, consider withdrawing rather than face the repercussions and failing the course. To be clear, if you use someone else's work to write up yours, then you are plagiarizing. If you **allow** someone to write up your work, then you are plagiarizing and cheating and will be punished. If you rewrite another person's work, then you are plagiarizing even though it is not word for word. IT IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO MAKE GRAPHS, WRITE UP LAB REPORTS OR ASSIGNMENTS TOGETHER BECAUSE YOU ARE LAB PARTNERS. YOU ARE PLAGIARIZING. THIS GOES FOR GRAPHS AND TABLES AS WELL AS FOR TEXT. I WANT TO SEE WHAT YOU KNOW. **not an excuse for similarity in style.**

You may discuss the laboratories with your partners or others but you may not write together unless I specifically tell you this is a group assignment. Go home or to the library and write up your assignments on your own. **Do not let others look at your assignments**. Do not let others pressure you into showing them your assignments before class when due. Put them on my desk when entering the classroom. If I write on your paper that your work is too close in content to Joe-Blow's work, then consider this a warning and the next time it happens both papers/assignments will get a zero. If a student copies from another student's test or uses extra "test aids" during a test, he/she has cheated. If a student allows someone to copy from his/her test, he/she has cheated and will be punished. If a student paraphrases another author's work without citing the source, then they are plagiarizing (i.e., stealing).

Everyone has an individual writing style. It is almost like a fingerprint. Therefore, it is very easy to pick out similarities in writing and thus, potential plagiarism. This is the same for graphic depictions of data and tables. I will not tolerate the communal sharing of work. This goes for work done in previous semesters. By taking this course, you agree that all required course work may be subject to submission for textual similarity review.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Labor Day: Sept 3rd - NO CLASS
Mid-Term: Oct 4th, Last day to drop and still get a W/P – Oct 11th
Fall Break: Oct 8-9th NO CLASS
Thanksgiving: Nov 21-23rd NO CLASS
Last day: Monday – Dec 3rd
Final Exam: Thursday, Dec 6th, 2:45-4:45 p.m. Same room as lecture

WEEKLY LECTURE SCHEDULE – Tentative

Week	Topics
1	Introduction
2	nature of variation
3	mechan