

Professor: Corey Devin Anderson, Ph.D. (Evolution, Ecology, and Population Biology)

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Days and time: Tuesday/Thursday, 2:00 to 3:15 PM.

location: BSC 2073
A) Wed, 9 to 11:50 AM

Wednesday 05 Dec: 2:45 to 4:45 PM.

: Wednesday 3:30 to 5 PM.

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The lectures provide a survey of key topics in the disciplines of ecology and evolution; the labs are intended to reinforce the lecture material, as well as to provide further training in statistical, computational, and field-based methods in ecology and evolution. The lab component of this class will also provide students with some training in scientific writing.

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

If you need extra help or clarification, please use email and/or take advantage of office hours. I am also usually available after lecture if you have questions. Appointments and drop-ins are permitted, but cannot always be accommodated.

I use a rank-based ~~MCQ~~ system; this means that you will be evaluated based on how well you perform (in terms of your point total) relative to other students in the class.

When possible, I like to use natural breaks in the point distribution to determine letter grades. For example, if there is a substantial point differential separating the top five students in the class from the ~~top five~~. Conversely, natural breaks at the bottom of the distribution determine those students that do not pass (i.e., D/F). In the case that discrete natural breaks in the distribution do not exist, I will use quartiles of the distribution to assist in parsing the distribution.

There are approximately 900 points that can be earned in this course, 450 points from exams, 400 points from laboratory exercises, and 50 points for attendance. There will be three unit exams (all multiple choice format), each worth 100 points. My multiple choice tests are designed to be challenging; I expect the median score to be 65. There will also be a cumulative final (essay questions) worth 150 points. ~~Final~~ (i.e., at or just ~~or~~), your performance on this final test may influence my decision as to whether you will pass or fail. I will also consider your performance on this test if you fall near the cutoff between other letter grades (e.g., C/B and B/A).

The laboratory exercises come in various formats, but a big chunk of your score will be based on a written scientific paper (worth 250 points or 62.5% of your lab grade). All other

Attendance is requisite for all laboratories and is strongly encouraged for lecture. I will randomly survey attendance in lecture 10 times during the course. Every time that you are present you will receive five points, for a total of 50 possible points. If you are planning to miss lecture or lab, you must contact me (via email) before the lecture or lab (unless it is an emergency situation).

There are not make up labs. If you are sick, a note is required from a health professional on official letterhead (preferably via email) for the lab you are going to miss). Other excuses will be considered on a case by case basis. If you have a planned absence, you may participate in the other lab sections. It is very important that you are not late for field trips.

Although I will not take role every day of class, I may occasionally give a quiz or additional test questions (as required) during lecture.

We will be taking multiple field trips into inhospitable areas and during most of these field trips we will be in the field for several hours. To avoid mosquitoes and overheating, wear light (or earth) colored clothing. During field trips, you will need insect repellent, hats, and/or sunscreen and to eat something before we leave (or bring food along)! Some of the places we visit DO NOT have restroom facilities, so please relieve yourself prior to departure or be prepared to do so in the field.

For writing assignments, stringing together phrases and sentences from published sources is considered plagiarism and will result in a zero on that assignment.

that exam.