WILD 2200

ECOLOGY OF OUR CHANGING WORLD (BLS)

Course Description

Foundations of ecological and evolutionary relationships of organisms with other organisms and with the physical environment, emphasizing populations, communities, and ecosystems. Integration of basic science with applications of science to understanding human interactions with the environment.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Apply the "scientific method" as a way of understanding nature
2. Gain an understanding of basic ecological principals and concepts
3. Practice reading, writing, and critical thinking in a scientific context

IDEA Objectives

Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends)
Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories
Learning to Apply Course Material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions)
Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view

Course Resources

All materials will be provided online through Canvas. No book purchase is required

Course Requirements

Each student will:

1. Readings: There is no textbook for this course. There will be weekly readings supplementing lecture material, handouts, etc. that will be posted on Canvas for you to read.
2. Discussions: Occasional class periods will be devoted to discussion of an issue decided on in advance. I expect participation in these discussions, and will grade for participation. It will not be a contest to see who can monopolize the discussion; all I expect is thoughtful participation. In order to get credit for participating in discussions you must be in class and participating.
3. Reports on "Ecology in the News": The goal of these reports is to identify a explain how ecological research is involved in a current news story. Please restrict your focus to major, reputable news sources, such as the New York Times, BBC News, etc. Your goal is to extract key pieces of information from the initial article, and follow up on the sources it sites. A template for your reports will be made available on Canvas.
4. Quizzes: Each week you will have a quiz to be completed outside of class. Quizzes will be open for one week, will have no time limit, and be open resources (i.e., you can use any resource to help you answer questions). You will only have one attempt to take the quiz.
5. Exams: There will be two exams, one midterm and a final. The final will be comprehensive. Exams will be written and will include fillin-the-blank, true-false, short answer, and one or more longer “question(s)” such as a short essay or a problem to work through. As with written assignments, you must write your answers carefully and clearly. Full credit depends on an answer being concise, as well as complete with
respect to the level at which the topic was presented in class. And we must be able to understand what you are saying. In general, exams may be taken only during the assigned period. Only in the case of unusual, unforeseeable circumstances will I consider a makeup exam unless prior arrangements have been made with me. Additionally, prior approval is not guaranteed – you must have a valid reason for missing an exam.

Evaluation Methods and Criteria

20% Quizzes
40% Exams
20% Discussions
20% Ecology in the News reports

Grade Scheme

The following grading standards will be used in this class:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100 % to 93.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>&lt; 93.0 % to 90.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>&lt; 90.0 % to 87.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>&lt; 87.0 % to 83.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>&lt; 83.0 % to 80.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>&lt; 80.0 % to 77.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>&lt; 77.0 % to 73.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>&lt; 73.0 % to 70.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>&lt; 70.0 % to 67.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>&lt; 67.0 % to 60.0%</td>
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<td>F</td>
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Nonattendance Policy

Students May Be Dropped For Nonattendance

If a student does not attend a class during the first week of the term or by the second class meeting, whichever comes first, the instructor may submit a request to have the student dropped from the course. (This does not remove responsibility from the student to drop courses which he or she does not plan to attend.) This option is typically used for classes that are full and the instructor is trying to make a seat available for another student, but may be considered for other courses. Requests must be made during the first 20 percent of the course and will be considered on an individual student basis. Students who are dropped from courses will be notified by the Registrar's Office through their preferred e-mail account (see 2018-2019 General Catalog (http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=3955)).

Assumption of Risk

All classes, programs, and extracurricular activities within the University involve some risk, and certain ones involve travel. The University provides opportunities to participate in these programs on a voluntary basis. Therefore, students should not participate in them if they do not care to assume the risks. Students can ask the respective program leaders/sponsors about the possible risks a program may generate, and if students are not
willing to assume the risks, they should not select that program. By voluntarily participating in classes, programs, and extracurricular activities, a
student does so at his or her own risk. General information about University Risk Management policies, insurance coverage, vehicle use policies,
and risk management forms can be found at: http://www.usu.edu/riskmgt/ (http://www.usu.edu/riskmgt/)

Library Services

All USU students attending classes in Logan, at our Regional Campuses, or online can access all databases, e-journals, and e-books regardless of
location. Additionally, the library will mail printed books to students, at no charge to them. Students can also borrow books from any Utah academic
library. Take advantage of all library services and learn more at libguides.usu.edu/rc. (http://libguides.usu.edu/rc)

Classroom Civility

Utah State University supports the principle of freedom of expression for both faculty and students. The University respects the rights of faculty to
teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires classroom conditions that do not impede the learning process. Disruptive
classroom behavior will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Read Student Code Article
V Section V-3 https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article5 for more information.

University Policies & Procedures

COVID-19 Classroom Accommodations

To ensure that you receive the appropriate accommodation for COVID-19 related challenges, the University requires you to fill out the COVID-19
Questionnaire (https://www.usu.edu/covid-19/questionnaire/index.php). Upon doing so, the University COVID CARE Team
(https://www.usu.edu/covid-19/if-you-are-sick/care-team.php) will contact you to determine your needs and how to support you. The CARE Team
will also contact your instructors and provide important direction on how best to accommodate your needs. For additional reference, please see
USU's Attendance and Excused Absence (https://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=3160) policy and the COVID-19 Classroom
Accommodations (https://www.usu.edu/covid-19/operations/accomodations) page.

Reducing COVID-19 Risk

You can help keep classes, events, and activities happening in person this semester by following these steps:

1. Get vaccinated if you're able. Vaccines are the best available tool to help stop the spread of COVID-19. They are safe, free, and easy to
   access.
2. If you are vaccinated, let USU know. Please upload your proof of full vaccination (http://aggiehealth.usu.edu/) to AggieHealth. If you are
   exposed to COVID-19, USU's case containment will not require you to quarantine if they know you are vaccinated and you do not have
   symptoms.
3. Stay home if you're sick and get tested for COVID-19 if you have symptoms or have been exposed. It's important to not bring any illness to
   campus.
4. Wear a mask indoors. Public health experts recommend that even vaccinated people wear masks indoors in high COVID-19 transmission
   areas, which includes most of Utah.

If USU's COVID Case Containment team identifies an uncontained situation in the classroom, you will be notified of any temporary changes to your
course delivery method through a Canvas announcement. Please make sure you are receiving immediate notifications of new Canvas
announcements. The situation will be handled according to protocols on the COVID Classroom Exposure (https://www.usu.edu/covid-19/students/classroom-exposure) page.

Class Seating Charts (For In-Person Classes)

In classes with more than 10 students, a seating chart will be used to track where you are sitting. After the first week of classes, your instructor will
tell you how to enter your seat number in Canvas. You must sit in the same seat for the rest of the semester. This is extremely important for
tracking cases of COVID-19 and helping classes remain in person.

Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibilities

Academic freedom is the right to teach, study, discuss, investigate, discover, create, and publish freely. Academic freedom protects the rights of
faculty members in teaching and of students in learning. Freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of truth. Faculty members are
entitled to full freedom in teaching, research, and creative activities, subject to the limitations imposed by professional responsibility. Faculty Code
Policy #403 (http://www.usu.edu/hr/files/uploads/Policies/403.pdf) further defines academic freedom and professional responsibilities.

Academic Integrity – "The Honor System"

Each student has the right and duty to pursue his or her academic experience free of dishonesty. To enhance the learning environment at Utah
State University and to develop student academic integrity, each student agrees to the following Honor Pledge:

"I pledge, on my honor, to conduct myself with the foremost level of academic integrity."

A student who lives by the Honor Pledge is a student who does more than not cheat, falsify, or plagiarize. A student who lives by the Honor Pledge:
Espouses academic integrity as an underlying and essential principle of the Utah State University community;
Understands that each act of academic dishonesty devalues every degree that is awarded by this institution; and
Is a welcomed and valued member of Utah State University.

**Academic Dishonesty**
The instructor of this course will take appropriate actions in response to Academic Dishonesty, as defined the University's Student Code. Acts of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to:

- **Cheating:** using, attempting to use, or providing others with any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, examinations, or in any other academic exercise or activity. Unauthorized assistance includes:
  - Working in a group when the instructor has designated that the quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity be done "individually;"
  - Depending on the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments;
  - Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, in taking an examination or preparing academic work;
  - Acquiring tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty member, staff member, or another student without express permission;
  - Continuing to write after time has been called on a quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity;
  - Submitting substantially the same work for credit in more than one class, except with prior approval of the instructor; or engaging in any form of research fraud.

- **Falsification:** altering or fabricating any information or citation in an academic exercise or activity.

- **Plagiarism:** representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one's own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes using materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in the sale of term papers or other academic materials.

For additional information go to: ARTICLE VI. University Regulations Regarding Academic Integrity (https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article6)

**Sexual Harassment/Title IX**
Utah State University is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free from acts of sexual misconduct and discrimination and to fostering respect and dignity for all members of the USU community. Title IX and USU Policy 339 (http://www.usu.edu/policies/339) address sexual harassment in the workplace and academic setting.

The university responds promptly upon learning of any form of possible discrimination or sexual misconduct. Any individual may contact USU’s Office of Equity (https://equity.usu.edu/) for available options and resources or clarification. The university has established a complaint procedure to handle all types of discrimination complaints, including sexual harassment (USU Policy 305 (http://www.usu.edu/policies/305/)), and has designated the Office of Equity Director/Title IX Coordinator as the official responsible for receiving and investigating complaints of sexual harassment.

**Withdrawal Policy and "I" Grade Policy**
Students are required to complete all courses for which they are registered by the end of the semester. In some cases, a student may be unable to complete all of the coursework because of extenuating circumstances, but not due to poor performance or to retain financial aid. The term ‘extenuating’ circumstances includes: (1) incapacitating illness which prevents a student from attending classes for a minimum period of two weeks, (2) a death in the immediate family, (3) financial responsibilities requiring a student to alter a work schedule to secure employment, (4) change in work schedule as required by an employer, or (5) other emergencies deemed appropriate by the instructor.

**Students with Disabilities**
USU welcomes students with disabilities. If you have, or suspect you may have, a physical, mental health, or learning disability that may require accommodations in this course, please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) (http://www.usu.edu/drc/) as early in the semester as possible (University Inn # 101, (435) 797-2444, drc@usu.edu (mailto:drc@usu.edu)). All disability related accommodations must be approved by the DRC. Once approved, the DRC will coordinate with faculty to provide accommodations.

Students who are at a higher risk for complications from COVID-19 or who contract COVID-19 may also be eligible for accommodations.

**Diversity Statement**
Regardless of intent, careless or ill-informed remarks can be offensive and hurtful to others and detract from the learning climate. If you feel uncomfortable in a classroom due to offensive language or actions by an instructor or student(s) regarding ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation, contact:

- Division of Student Affairs: https://studentaffairs.usu.edu (https://studentaffairs.usu.edu/), (435) 797-1712, studentervices@usu.edu (mailto:studentervices@usu.edu), TSC 220
- Student Legal Services: https://ususa.usu.edu/student-association/student-advocacy/legal-services (https://ususa.usu.edu/student-association/student-advocacy/legal-services), (435) 797-2912, TSC 326,
- Access and Diversity: http://accesscenter.usu.edu (http://accesscenter.usu.edu/), (435) 797-1728, access@usu.edu (mailto:access@usu.edu); TSC 315
Grievance Process

Students who feel they have been unfairly treated may file a grievance through the channels and procedures described in the Student Code: Article VII (https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article7).

Full details for USU Academic Policies and Procedures can be found at:

- Student Conduct (http://www.usu.edu/studentconduct)
- Student Code (https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/)
- Academic Integrity (https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article6)

Emergency Procedures

In the case of a drill or real emergency, classes will be notified to evacuate the building by the sound of the fire/emergency alarm system or by a building representative. In the event of a disaster that may interfere with either notification, evacuate as the situation dictates (i.e., in an earthquake when shaking ceases or immediately when a fire is discovered). Turn off computers and take any personal items with you. Elevators should not be used; instead, use the closest stairs.

Mental Health

Mental health is critically important for the success of USU students. As a student, you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. Utah State University provides free services for students to assist them with addressing these and other concerns. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus at Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) (https://counseling.usu.edu).

Students are also encouraged to download the "SafeUT App" (https://healthcare.utah.edu/uni/programs/safe-ut-smartphone-app) to their smartphones. The SafeUT application is a 24/7 statewide crisis text and tip service that provides real-time crisis intervention to students through texting and a confidential tip program that can help anyone with emotional crises, bullying, relationship problems, mental health, or suicide related issues.

Land Acknowledgement Statement

“We would like to acknowledge that all USU courses are taught on the traditional lands of the Diné, Goshute, Paiute, Shoshone, and Ute Peoples past and present, and honor the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations.”