Biology 3250, Ecology and Evolution, fall 2021

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

Preferred salutation: "Dr. Anderson"

Course Format:

Traditional Face-to-Face (F2F): Face-to-face classes generally have the following:
a scheduled meeting place and
a scheduled time and day(s) of the week.

Lecture location: BSC 1202
Days and time: Monday/Wednesday, 2:00 to 3:15 PM.

Lab location: BSC 3018 (Biology Computer Lab)
Wed, 8:00 to 10:50 AM

Final exam:
Tuesday 07 Dec: 2:45 to 4:45 PM.

Office Hours: Thursday 9:30 to 11:30 AM.
E-mail: coreanderson@valdosta.edu

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.

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

*Policy on appointments and "drop-ins"
If you need extra help or clarification, the best method is Email (I try to be very responsive); after class or lab is usually also a good time for help. Appointments can be scheduled outside of official class time, but I ask that you please try to take advantage of scheduled class times and office hours, if possible, as I cannot always accommodate meetings based on student schedules.

Books

"Required" texts:

1) Population Genetics and Microevolutionary Theory by Alan R. Templeton; the publisher is Wiley.

Recommended texts:

2) Ecology: Global Insights and Investigations by Peter Stiling; the publisher is McGraw Hill.
3) A Primer of Ecology by Nicholas J. Gotelli; the publisher is Sinauer Associates, Inc.
4) Any general textbook on evolution or ecology.

Unfortunately, there is only one text book in print that covers both ecology and evolution in tandem; for various reasons, I have chosen not to use this particular book. On the other hand, there are many text books that cover ecology and evolution as separate subjects, and many general ecology textbooks include some evolution.

I am only requiring one book (Templeton). The pop gen book may be considered "overkill" by some, as its level is relatively advanced and it contains some information that is beyond the scope of the present course. However, as much time is spent covering microevolutionary theory, I think students will benefit from the additional examples and practice problems contained in this book. Moreover, many of my lectures on this subject are based directly on this text, so reading the book should help to reinforce some of the more challenging lecture material. In my opinion, this is the hardest part of the course for students, and many students have told me that reading the book in tandem was very helpful.

For various reasons, including cost, I have decided not to require an ecology book this semester. However, some students might consider buying or "checking out" a general textbook on ecology or evolution or buying an E-book. Most of these textbooks cover the same topics and most of the topics are covered in this course. Reading another source to reinforce the course material could be very helpful (just remember to skip the stuff we do not cover).

Field trip attire

We will be taking multiple field trips into inhospitable areas and during most of these field trips we will be "off trail". You need to wear long pants and closed toed shoes; long sleeve shirts are also recommended. To avoid mosquitoes and overheating, wear light (or earth) colored clothing. During some of these trips, you will like get muddy, wet, and downright dirty; so don't wear "nice" clothes. Insect repellent, hats, and/or sunscreen are also suggested. Don't forget to bring drinking water and to eat something before we leave (or bring food along). Some of the places we visit may not have restroom facilities, so please relieve yourself prior to departure or be prepared to use "outdoor facilities," if required.

Writing and plagiarism policy

For writing assignments, stringing together phrases and sentences from published sources is considered plagiarism and will result in a zero on that assignment. NEVER copy lab assignments or papers from previous semesters; if you do this, you will probably fail Biology 3250. For some of the labs, I do not mind if you work as a team; however, for writing assignments, you must turn in your own original work (even if you did the analyses as a team).

Cheating policy

Do NOT cheat on exams. You will receive a zero on the exam and will be reported to the Dean of Undergraduate Academic Affairs.

Calculator policy

Although I try to avoid writing test problems that require hand-held calculators, some questions may be facilitated by use of a calculator….so remember to bring one to the unit exams.

Cell phone and computer policy

Unless you have special permission, cell phones use is strongly discouraged during lecture. Students who have cell phones out during exams will receive a zero on that exam. Any student caught photographing an exam will get an automatic "F" in Biology 3250, and will also be banned from retaking the course with Dr. Anderson. Laptops are computers OK in lecture (and obviously necessary if you attending remotely due to illness or quarantine), as long as they are being used to follow along with material in lecture and not for other purposes (or other courses).

Policy on audio recordings

I prefer that my lectures and labs not be recorded without my consent, but if you feel as if you need to record my lecture, please place your recording device in the front of the classroom, so that I am aware that I am being recorded.

Students with disabilities

Students requiring classroom or testing accommodations because of documented disabilities should discuss their needs with the instructor at the beginning of the semester. Students not registered must contact the Access Office, Farber Hall, Phone; 245-2498. Website: http://www.valdosta.edu/access/
For some students, the presence of a medical condition places them at high risk for COVID-19. These students can use the online form to submit documentation of the condition to the Access Office to ensure confidentiality.

spring 2021 (addendum): VSU COVID-19 policies:

VSU cares about student success both on and offline, and a variety of resources are available to help studentsboth academically and personally during the Fall 2020 semester. One of the best resources is VSU's Coronavirus FAQ page located ahttps://www.valdosta.edu/health-advisory/coronavirus.php.