This course aims to provide an ecological and evolutionary approach to understanding the distribution, abundance, dispersion and form-function diversity of organisms. The focus will primarily pertain to organisms and their physiological and life history adaptations.


**PREREQUISITES** – BIOL 1710/1730 and BIOL1720/1740, or equivalent. You may need to revisit your Biology textbook from time to time.

**How can I make an A?**

1) Be present during every class meeting. Pay attention! Focus!!
2) Take detailed notes on everything written on board and said during class. You should be writing from the start to end of class.
3) Read the book.
4) Re-write class notes, powerpoint notes, and book notes at least 2-3 times.
5) Make associations!
6) Ask questions! Come by for office hours.
7) For a 3 hour class, you should be studying at least 9 hours a week.
8) Study away from home. Go to quiet spot with no distractions. Reward yourself for completing a 2-3 hours study session.

****SYLLABUS IS TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE!!!

*****READ CHAPTER BEFORE COMING TO CLASS – THERE MAY BE A POP-QUIZ PRIOR TO LECTURE TO CHECK ON READING.

I. ATTENDANCE –

Although there is no UNT attendance policy, it will be difficult to obtain the information from lecture unless you get it "first hand". The majority of the exam will be from lecture notes, with a considerable amount not posted in powerpoints.

Attendance is taken randomly throughout the semester. As an incentive to attend lecture, those students who have 4 or fewer absences on role call days will have 2 points added to their overall percentile at the end of the course. This is especially important to a student who is borderline between an A and B, etc. If I happen to take attendance on a day you were absent, before you arrived to class, or after you leave class, there is no mechanism to make up that absence. There are no points deducted if you miss more than 4 classes.
In the event of an absence, notes should be obtained from a classmate as I do not hand out my notes and lecture notes if available on-line will be limited. You will be responsible for all class material that was covered during your absence.

II. GRADING –

| Opportunities = 400 points (4 Exams, semi-cumulative) (Final 25% cumulative, 75% new) |
| Participation = 100 points |
| **Total** = 500 points |

Final grade = total points/5 + attendance points, if obtained.

Exams are semi-cumulative in that the material will continue to build on itself.
Question format may include a combination of multiple-choice, matching, short answer/essay, and diagramming/labeling.

Grading Scale:

- **A** = 90 to 100% Superior understanding
- **B** = 80 to 89% Above-average understanding
- **C** = 70 to 79% Average understanding
- **D** = 60 to 69% Below-average understanding
- **F** = 59 and below does not demonstrate a fundamental understanding

III. EXAM POLICY -

*No exam grades will be dropped!!*

Make-up exams may be arranged with an appropriate University-sanctioned excuse. You must make arrangements with me within a day of missing an exam to make up the exam. Make-up exams will not be the same as the regular lecture exam.

- No student taking an exam may leave the classroom after the exam begins until his or her exam has been completed.
- No student may begin an exam after the first student has left the classroom.
- Students arriving after the first student has left will receive a zero for that exam.
- When taking a test, all personal items are to be placed under the desk.
- When taking a test, scantrons and test answers must be covered to avoid wandering eyes. If someone is caught looking at your answers, you will also be suspect of cheating.
- No electronic devices may be used during a testing event, unless approved by the Office of Disability Accommodations and me.

I will photocopy exam scantrons for record keeping. Alteration of scantron bubbles after the exam is graded is considered as cheating. (See “Academic Misconduct” statement for information on the consequences of cheating.)

IV. EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENT CONDUCT –

Disruptions and disrespectful behavior are damaging to the educational process. Therefore, the following class rules will apply. If a student does not adhere to these rules, they will be asked to leave the classroom.

**NUMBER ONE RULE – no talking in class unless it is part of the class discussion or you are asking a question. Background chatter makes it difficult for others to hear me and for me to hear myself.**

- Cell phones and other wireless communication devices (e.g. laptops with wireless modems, PDA’s, iPods, blackberry devices) must be turned OFF or set to silent mode during class. If you need to use a laptop for notes, I must give consent and you must sit at the front row of the class.
- If an electronic device is used in class, the instructor may confiscate the device or dismiss the offender from class.
- You will be expected to be in class, seated, and ready to participate at the beginning of the class time.
- You will be expected to spend the entire period in class. Attend to restroom and other needs before class so that you will not have to leave during class time.
- Talking and texting during lectures is disrespectful to me and to your classmates. Offenders may be asked to leave the class.
• You are expected to do your own work for all graded material.
• You are expected to contribute to class discussions.
• Value differences in opinion. Keep an open mind and treat members of this class, guest speakers, and me with respect.
• Exceptions to any rule should be approved by the instructor prior to the class period.

V. Policy on Incompletes-
The grade of “I” (incomplete) will only be considered for documented absences from exams occurring in the last one-fourth of the semester. All incomplete work must be completed within the time specified by the instructor (not to exceed one year after taking the course) and all requirements, as stated in the Undergraduate Catalog, must be met.

VI. Disability Accommodation –
“The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at http://www.unt.edu/oda. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.”

VII. Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty-
BIOL 2140 has a zero-tolerance policy for scholastic dishonesty. Students who are found to have committed scholastic dishonesty (all forms, including but not limited to plagiarism, copying from another student’s quiz, exam, or homework, allowing another student to copy from your quiz, exam or homework, using a device or writing on your hand, clothing, desk, etc. during an exam) will fail this course. If you are seen looking at another student’s test, you will be asked to leave and you will receive a failing grade. If you are allowing someone to look at your test, you will be asked to leave and you will receive a failing grade.

The term ‘plagiarism’ includes, but is not limited to:
1. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment;
2. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials. Examples: copying word for word or even a phrase from a publication, including web pages, without placing quotes around the phrase and citing the source.

Students suspected of scholastic dishonesty will automatically be assigned a grade of “F” until the matter is resolved through proper procedures. Students are expected to know their rights and responsibilities as put forth in the University of North Texas Undergraduate Catalog and the Student Guidebook.

VIII. Release of Grades-
The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (1974), does not permit faculty or staff to report grades by phone or email. In addition, per University policy, grades cannot be posted. Grades will be posted continuously on Blackboard.
## BIOL 2140 PRINCIPLES OF ECOLOGY

Summer 2017 Target Schedule; Subject to modification. Modifications will be announced in class and on Blackboard.

### WEEK OF JULY 10th
**CHAPTERS 1-2**

**ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS:**
- Introduction: Ecology, Evolution, and the Scientific Method
- Adaptations to Aquatic Environments
- Statistics: Mean, Variance, Sample Variance, Standard Deviation, Correlation
- Environmental Law – NEPA
- EPA
- TCEQ

### WEEK OF JULY 17th
**CHAPTERS 3, 4, 7**

**OPPORTUNITY 1 – CHAPTERS 1-2**
- Adaptations to Terrestrial Environments
- Adaptations to Variable Environments
- Evolution and Adaptation
- Statistics TBD in class
- Environmental Law – TBD in class

### WEEK OF JULY 24th
**CHAPTERS 8, 9, 10**

**OPPORTUNITY 2 – CHAPTERS 3, 4, 7**
- Life Histories
- Reproductive Strategies
- Social Behaviors
- Statistics TBD in class
- Environmental Law – TBD in class

### WEEK OF JULY 31st
**CHAPTERS 11, 18**

**OPPORTUNITY 3 – CHAPTERS 8, 9, 10**
- Population Distributions
- Community Structure
- Statistics TBD in class
- Environmental Law – TBD in class

### WEEK OF AUGUST 7th
**CHAPTERS 22, 23**

- Landscape Ecology, Biogeography, and Global Biodiversity
- Global Conservation of Biodiversity
- Catch-up and review

### AUGUST 10th

**Cumulative FINAL OPPORTUNITY – CHAPTERS 11, 18, 22, 23**
- 25% previous material; 75% new material