BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION OF ANIMALS

BIOL2251.001 PHYS 102
MW 2:00 – 3:20PM

Dr. Jaime L. Baxter-Slye
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DO NOT USE BLACKBOARD FOR PROMPT EMAIL

Office hours: ENV (EESAT) 325H on MW 3:30-4:00pm F 11-1pm or by appointment

REQUIRED TEXT

PREREQUISITES – BIOL 1710/1730 and BIOL1720/1740, or equivalent.

OBJECTIVES: The course aims to provide students with a range of fundamental concepts and practical applications pertaining to Biodiversity and Conservation of Animals. At the end of the semester the student is expected to be knowledgeable and competent in the following areas:

a) Basic knowledge about the diversity and distribution of organisms;

b) Understanding the links between biodiversity and ecosystem processes and services;

c) Information needed to evaluate the cultural and economic value of biodiversity and to use this to develop conservation plans and policy decisions.

How can I make the highest grade?

1) Be present during every class meeting.
2) Take detailed notes.
3) Read the book. Scan prior to class, re-read while studying. Take notes over book sections covered in class.
4) Re-write class notes, Powerpoint notes, and book notes.
5) Make associations!
6) Ask questions! Come by for office hours.
7) For a 3 hour class, you should be studying at least 4-9 hours a week in short spurts.
8) Study away from home. Go to quiet spot with no distractions. Reward yourself for completing a 1-2 hours study session.
9) Know why it is important for you to learn the content and material of this course.
10) Desire to learn.

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 opportunities 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 6 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 attendance is recorded 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**
The grade you earn in Biodiversity and Conservation of Animals is based on lecture opportunities (90%) and participation (10%). There are three lecture opportunities and a final opportunity. All opportunities (lecture and final) are equally weighted and will be averaged to determine your grade. All opportunities are semi-cumulative in that the material continues to build on itself. Participation points are based on participation in class activities and pop quizzes. Grades will be assigned as follows:

**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

There will be a number of opportunities to earn points through participation exercises and quizzes. There will be no individual extra credit assignments—please do not ask. Grades will not be given out over the phone or via email at any point during the semester. Opportunity grades will posted on Blackboard.

Although I do not anticipate any reason to modify this grading plan, I reserve the right to do so if circumstances warrant. I will inform the class if modifications to the grading scale are necessary.

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 week prior of missing an exam to make up the exam. If you miss due to unforeseen circumstances, whatever the excuse, you must contact me the day of the exam to discuss a possibility of scheduling a make-up.**

- 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](http://www.unt.edu/oda). You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.”

VII. **Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty**-
BIOL 2251 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. **Policy on Audio/Video recording devices this includes smart phones or any other electronic device:**
Lectures developed by me for this class are my intellectual property. The following policy statement is legally binding upon you, the student. The lecturer, Jaime Baxter-Slye, is the only person authorized to distribute materials associated with this course and you are not authorized to record my lectures, videotape, or post my Powerpoints, without express prior written consent from me.

IX. **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 on a wall or otherwise. Grades will be posted continuously on Blackboard.
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<tr>
<th>Week of</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 29th</td>
<td>SYLLABUS INTRO</td>
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<td>Science of Biogeography</td>
<td>CH 1</td>
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<td>History of Biogeography</td>
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<td>The Geographic Template</td>
<td>CH 3</td>
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<td>Sept 26th</td>
<td>OPPORTUNITY 1</td>
<td>Ch 1-3 plus articles and lecture notes</td>
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<td>Sept 28th</td>
<td>Distribution of Species</td>
<td>CH 4</td>
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<td>Oct 3rd</td>
<td>Finish Ch. 4</td>
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<td>Distributions of Communities</td>
<td>CH 5</td>
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<td>Oct 10th</td>
<td>OPPORTUNITY 2</td>
<td>CH 4 AND 5, plus articles and lecture notes</td>
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<td>Oct 17th</td>
<td>Dispersal and Immigration</td>
<td>CH 6</td>
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<td>Oct 24th</td>
<td>Finish Ch. 6; Speciation and Extinction</td>
<td>CH 7</td>
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<td>Oct 31st</td>
<td>Finish Ch. 7; Reconstructing History of Lineages</td>
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<td>Catch up and review</td>
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<td>Nov 7th</td>
<td>OPPORTUNITY 3</td>
<td>CH 6,7, 11, plus articles and lecture notes</td>
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<td>Nov 9th</td>
<td>Island Biogeography</td>
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<td>Nov 14th</td>
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<td>Nov 21st</td>
<td>Conservation Biogeography</td>
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<td>Nov 28th</td>
<td>Frontiers of Biogeography</td>
<td>CH 17</td>
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<td>Dec 5th</td>
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<td>Dec 12th</td>
<td>FINAL OPPORTUNITY 1:30 – 3:30</td>
<td>CH 13, 16, 17, plus articles and lecture notes</td>
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