1. **Who is my teacher?:** Dr. Jaime L. Baxter-Slye

   Office: working remotely; otherwise normally I’m in ENV 325H

   Office hours: by appointment is best and you can email me with three times that you are available and I will pick one; otherwise, I will have zoom open on Monday 11am – 1:30pm.

   Email: slye@unt.edu

   **NOTE – DO NOT** email through Canvas. Use only the TA email address provided above.**

2. **What are the objectives of this lab?:** Introduce students to general ecological concepts, methods, instruments, and equipment for applied field-based investigations of the biotic and abiotic components of various ecosystems. This lab will expose students to:

   A. Designing experiments
   B. Develop observational skills, learn field notebook techniques
   C. Data collection using basic field methods for forest, stream, prairie, and bird assessments
   D. Data processing, including identification to lowest possible taxonomic level
   E. Data analysis
   F. Individual report writing and group presentation

3. **How will I be graded?:** Use this table to figure out your grade. Do not go by what Canvas has listed as sometimes that is not being calculated correctly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Field Trip Attendance</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Trip Entry</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At Home Activities (5 topics x 100 points each)</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Introduction &amp; Materials and Methods</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Results</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Final Report</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Presentation</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Peer-reviewed Participation</strong></td>
<td>50, with the possibility of receiving a lower grade on the group results, final report and final presentation. If there is zero participation, the student will receive a zero for the participation grade, and a zero for the affected group assignments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Possible Points</strong></td>
<td>1200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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. Do not request any information from your TA about grades unless it is in person. For Fall 2020, a Zoom meeting will be required to discuss grades.

4. **What materials do I need for the lab?:**
1. Blank page composition book/journal 8x10
2. Pen or pencil
4. Appropriate clothes for field trips (closed-toed shoes preferably hiking boots, long pants, tall socks, hat, etc)
5. Large water bottle and snacks to bring on field trips, sunblock, camera or phone with camera
6. Distributed take home supplies (see section 6)
7. Working device with audio and visual to zoom, manage CANVAS, submit assignments, etc.
8. Download the iNaturalist application on your smartphone and desktop*
9. Discord for ease of communication during COVID*

*Note: the use of iNat and Discord is not mandatory, but highly valuable. If you opt out of using iNaturalist, you will still be responsible for sending observations to me. Using iNaturalist allows ease of viewing and identifying your observations.

We will use Discord as a group. Discord will allow easy file sharing among group members, rapid communication with your peers and myself, and allow us to organize the class in a more social manner. If you opt out of Discord, you will still get announcements via CANVAS. However, you won’t be able to see all the discussion that occurs on that platform.

5. How will I know what I need to do each week?

Weekly lab modules will be created on Canvas. There will be a list of items to complete each week. Modules will be made available at 9:45 am on Fridays, and you will have one week to complete each module. All weekly assignments will be due by 11:59 pm on the following Friday, unless stated otherwise. Within each module you will find:

a) instructions for the week
b) Zoom meeting link for each Friday at 10am, unless a field trip is occurring. If a field trip is occurring, there will be a video to watch covering the instructions/announcements for the week.
c) Journal article or other reading material
d) Training videos if applicable
e) Lab activity assignment to complete on your own if you are not attending a field trip
f) Field trip assignment to be completed by those students that attend a field trip

6. What supplies is UNT providing?

There will be some activities that you will be conducting at your home. We will distribute the following supplies to you:

a) binoculars
b) measuring tape

Kaitlynn Davis or I will be available at the Environmental Science loading dock (west side of the ENV SCI building in the parking lot) the following times to distribute supplies. If you cannot be available during these times, please email Dr. Slye for accommodations. You don’t need to park, just pull up in your car and we will hand them to you. Please wear a mask.

a) 3:00 – 4:00 pm on Tuesday (1/19)
b) 4:00 – 5:00 pm on Wednesday (1/20)
7. What will the assignments be?

a. **Weekly at home activity (unless it is your field trip week)** Follow the instruction guidelines for completing the at home activities.

b. **Field trip check (only completed by students who go on a field trip for a given week)** During the semester, students will attend one field trip instead of conducting an at home activity. Students should fill out field notebooks with information obtained on the field trip. Field notebooks will be brought on field trips to record pertinent data. Points will be taken off for forgetting the notebooks, disorganized or sloppy entries, or for failing to write an entry. Please refer to the posted rubric for grading information.

c. **Individually written introduction and materials and methods to a group report** Each student will be assigned to the tree group, the aquatic group, the prairie plant group, the prairie terrestrial invertebrate group, or the bird group. After we complete a field trip, students will individually write an introduction to their group in which they belong. Students will write the introductions, as well as materials and methods, by themselves and receive detailed feedback in order to improve their writing skills. Please refer to the template and grading rubric on Canvas. After the completion of the individual introduction and materials and methods assignment, students will use their writings to combine into a group report.

d. **Group results rough draft** After students have received feedback on their individual writing assignment, the group will write the results section together. Feedback will be given to the group. Corrections will be made and incorporated into the group final report. Please refer to the template and rubric on Canvas. One student needs to act as editor to ensure the paper flows as if one person wrote the report.

e. **Group final report** After receiving feedback from individual introductions, materials and methods, and the group results rough draft, the entire group will generate a full final report. The report will be written as if it were going to be submitted to a scientific journal. Please refer to the template and rubric for this assignment on Canvas. One student needs to act as the editor to ensure the paper flows as if one person wrote the report. The components of the report will be:

- title page
- table of contents
- abstract
- introduction
- materials and methods
- results
- discussion
- recommendations
• references

f. Group Powerpoint Presentation The group will work together to generate a 15 minute group Powerpoint presentation to be delivered via zoom during the “Semi-Annual Ecology Laboratory Symposium”. All students from the class will attend the symposium, along with invited guests such as other professors and stakeholders, like the grounds supervisor at UNT. Please refer to the template and rubric posted on Canvas. All group members must put in equal time and effort into making the presentation.

– A template for the presentation will be provided to you.
– Presentations should contain effective use of words, tables, and figures.
– Each group member will present one section of the presentation.
– The presentation must be edited so that it is visually attractive, flows as if one person made it, and be scientifically correct.
– The presentation should contain a title, group members names, the “why slide”, introduction, maps, methods, data tables or figures, conclusions, and references.

h. Participation Working effectively and appropriately in a group is a necessary skill in the field of ecological sciences. A peer-reviewed participation grade will be determined by all group members and count towards 50 points of the entire lab grade. The instructor and their peers will assess the level of participation throughout the semester. This includes data collecting and recording, writing and turning in quality introductions, materials and methods, results, discussion, and recommendations for the group paper. It also includes meeting with groups, providing feedback, help with editing, and working on the presentation.

All group members will have the opportunity to give feedback to the instructor on all group members, as well as themselves. Any issues should be first handled within the group, but if need be can be addressed with the instructor as they occur.

12. ATTENDANCE:
We will not be taking attendance at the weekly zoom meetings. Your attendance is only for your benefit. You cannot expect to do well in this particular lab if you do not actively participate during the zoom meetings, at home activities, field trips, group writing assignments, and the final presentation symposium. Additionally, your group will achieve success if you actively interact with one another via apps like Discord, Google Drives, etc. There will be a Discord available for Spring 2021 Ecology lab.

13. LAB RULES:
• Wear a mask and physically distance with six foot spacing between you and other people during any field trip.

• Be considerate of your group members. You are expected to fully participate with your group members.

• If you are ill or have another University approved excuse for missing assignments or field trips, you must email your instructor ASAP to schedule accommodations for any missed work.

• You must obtain and maintain a device that allows you to complete all assignments and participate in zoom meetings for the Spring 2021 semester.

14. POLICY ON INCOMPLETES:
Students may discuss this option with the Laboratory Supervisor, Dr. Jaime Baxter-Slye at slye@unt.edu. An incomplete (I) is a non-punitive grade, given only during the last one-fourth of a semester and only if a student is (1) passing the course; (2) has a justifiable reason why the class cannot be completed on schedule; and (3) arranges with the instructor to finish the course at a later date by completing specific requirements that the instructor must list on the grade sheet turned in at the end of the semester. All work must be completed within the time specified by the instructor (not to exceed one year after taking the course).
15. POLICY ON DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS:
All ODA letters and accommodations must be discussed preferably during the first week of school with the Laboratory Supervisor, Dr. Jaime Baxter-Slye at slye@unt.edu. “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.”

16. POLICY ON SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY:
BIOL 2141 labs have 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 individual or group assignments) will fail this course.

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.

Due to unexpected weather, the schedule may change. We will go on field trips in light rain. Check Canvas announcements for field trip schedule changes.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Due</th>
<th>LAB TOPIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 15th</td>
<td></td>
<td>First Zoom meeting at 10am. Zoom link will be posted on Canvas. Topic: Introduction, safety, group determination, expectations, and schedule. Topic: Survey of Plant and Animal Taxonomy and Identification techniques; biotic parameters measurement. Taxa Scavenger Hunt At Home Assignment will be given Pre-test will be administered Zoom meeting at 10 am. Topic: Writing Workshop; discuss group project introduction and materials and methods (Due Mar 19th) Topic: Taxa Scavenger Hunt continued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 22nd</td>
<td></td>
<td>Zoom meeting at 10 am. Topic: Fungi! At Home Fungi assignment given: Part I due Feb 5th; Part II due by Apr 9th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 29th</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pre-recorded Zoom meeting; no active Zoom meeting UNT Tree Survey Field Trip for the tree group members: Meet at the ENV pond in front of building. Wear a mask! All other students will be provided “Trees in my yard” At Home activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 5th</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pre-recorded Zoom meeting; no active Zoom meeting Pollinative Prairie Bird Survey for bird group members: Meet at the Pollinative Prairie. Wear a mask! All other students will be provided “Birds in my yard” At home activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 12th</td>
<td></td>
<td>Non-field trip students At home activity “Trees in my yard” due by 11:59pm Tree Field trip entries due by 11:59pm for tree group members</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Jan 15th:
- Complete setting up iNaturalist and Discord
- Start Taxa Scavenger Hunt observations

Jan 22nd:
- Obtain supplies from the ENV greenhouse (see section 6 above for times)
- Work on Taxa Scavenger Hunt assignment; most of the observations should be complete, start writing!

Jan 29th:
- At home activity “Taxa Scavenger Hunt” due by 11:59pm

Feb 5th:
- Part I of Fungi at home assignment due by 11:59pm

Feb 12th:
- Non-field trip students At home activity “Trees in my yard” due by 11:59pm
- Tree Field trip entries due by 11:59pm for tree group members
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity Details</th>
<th>Instructions and Deadlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Feb 19th   | • Non-field trip students At home activity “Birds in my yard” due by 11:59pm  
• Bird Field trip entries due by 11:59pm for bird group members                                                                                   | Pre-recorded Zoom meeting; no active Zoom meeting  
Pollinative Prairie Plant Assessment field trip for plant group members: Meet at the Pollinative Prairie. Wear a mask!  
All other students will be provided “Plants in my yard” At home activity |
| Feb 26th   | • Non-field trip students At home activity “Plants in my yard” due by 11:59 pm  
• Plant Field trip entries due by 11:59pm for plant group members                                                                                   | Pre-recorded Zoom meeting; no active Zoom meeting  
Aquatic Field trip to Pollinative Prairie for aquatic group members: Meet at the Pollinative Prairie. Wear a mask!  
All other students will be provided “Crash Course to Aquatic Macroinvertebrates and Stream Ecology” At home activity |
| Mar 5th    | • Non-field trip students At home activity “Crash Course to Aquatic Macroinvertebrates and Stream Ecology” due by 11:59pm  
• Aquatic Field trip entries due by 11:59pm for aquatic group members                                                                                  | Pre-recorded Zoom meeting; no active Zoom meeting  
Pollinative Prairie Terrestrial Invertebrate Assessment field trip for terrestrial invertebrate group members: Meet at the Pollinative Prairie. Wear a mask!  
All other students will be provided “Bugs in my yard” At home activity |
| Mar 12th   | • Non-field trip students At home activity “Bugs in my yard” due by 11:59pm  
• Terrestrial Invertebrates field trip entries due by 11:59pm for terrestrial invertebrate group members                                             | Live Zoom meeting at 10am Topic: go over field trip data, writing assignment and presentation expectations, organize groups  
All students given individual introduction, and materials and methods writing assignment that will be due Mar 19th by 11:59pm |
| Mar 19th   | • Individual Introduction and Materials and Methods due by 11:59pm                                                                                                                                          | Live Zoom meeting at 10am Topic: writing feedback, results organization, final report and presentation organization  
All groups given group result writing assignment due Apr 2nd by 11:59pm  
All groups will also receive Group Report and Presentation assignment templates due Apr 16th |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Events</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar 26th</td>
<td>• Nothing Due!</td>
<td>Live Zoom meeting at 10am Topic: writing feedback, results organization, final report and presentation organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 2nd –</td>
<td>• Group Results due by 11:59pm</td>
<td>Work independently with your groups; No live zoom meeting as UNT is closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no class as</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNT is</td>
<td>• Part II of Fungi at home assignment due by 11:59pm.</td>
<td>Live Zoom meeting at 10am Topic: Group Report and Presentation organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>closed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 9th</td>
<td>• Group Final Report and presentation due by 9:45am. Note, we need the ppt presentation by 11:59pm on Apr 15th.</td>
<td>The Semi-Annual Ecology Laboratory Symposium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>All students will attend a live Zoom meeting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Groups will be presenting their group presentations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>