

## **BIOLOGY 2406: ECOLOGY & EVOLUTION**

**Distance Learning Section # 14503, SPRING 2008**

***Mandatory Orientation: TUESDAY. March 18<sup>th</sup>, 6-7pm PIN Rm 709***

Dr. Anne C. Keddy-Hector

Office: Room 2249 Phone # ACC: (512) 223- 6082

FAX: 223-6769

Office Hours: M - W 8-9am\*\*\*, RVS 2249, Fridays by appointment

Please note- Since I am on medical leave the office hours for a given day may be cancelled without notice

email: akeddy3@aol.com and [akeddy@austincc.edu](mailto:akeddy@austincc.edu)

**REQUIRED TEXTS: Biology by Campbell, Reese & Mitchell (7<sup>th</sup> edition )**

and **Study Guide for Biology 2406** by Keddy-Hector & Strong (available on line through my website: <http://www.austincc.edu/akeddy>)

**LAB:** Ecobeaker ecology software (Windows or MAC version) available ONLY through the ACC PIN bookstore, **Call first (512) 288-2303! Their hours are 9-6pm M-H. ONLY. IF you come to orientation at 6pm, you want to get the software first before they close and save yourself another trip!** The correct version should have a green sticker that says 2007-2008.

**Course Description:** Biology 2406, Ecology and Evolution is a **major's level course for students with a strong background in biology**. The purpose of the course is to investigate how fundamental biological forces, such as evolution, affect the lives of organisms. You will study the environment's impact on organisms, and the effect organisms can have on one other. You will also look at the impact humans have on ecosystem.

**Instructional Methodology:** This is a print-based distance learning section of Biology 2406.

**Requirements:** College level reading and math skills (a minimum of 5 on the ACC reading and writing tests), or passing the reading and writing TASP test, or an exemption from TASP is required. **You must also fill out the last page of this syllabus and turn it into my office by April 15th. If you do not meet these requirements, the instructor will drop you from this course- no exceptions.** Since this is a major's course, the material will cover the mathematical equations that form the basis for many ecological models. You as a student will be expected to apply these formulas in homework assignments and on tests. Thus a high school level of algebra skills math is necessary for the successful completion of this course.

This course will be divided into 4 fundamental units. You are responsible to obtain all information such as study guide for each unit. Lab assignments must be obtained from the ACC bookstore or the Ecobeaker website [www.simbio.com](http://www.simbio.com). They are not on my website.

### **GRADING POLICY:**

There will be 4 unit lecture exams, to correspond to the study guide material, and a comprehensive essay final that may replace one unit exam. Thus if you wish to replace one unit exam grade, you may do so by taking the comprehensive final **which is only available at the RVS testing center. If you miss a unit exam you may not take a makeup exam**, Instead you must take the comprehensive final to replace that grade. If you miss 2 exams, you need to withdraw from the course. Each exam will be 70% objective, (multiple choice) and 30% essay.

Exam dates are listed below. You may take exams before the date listed, but you must complete the unit exam by the date listed or receive a 0 for that unit exam. **There are no exceptions.** Note: If you are having academic problems, you are responsible to withdraw yourself from the course. The withdrawal date is APRIL 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **Lab Assignments:**

Bio 2406 has a lab component. You will be responsible to complete 8 EcoBeaker labs: The first 4 labs are due to my office by Thursday APRIL 17th. The second 4 labs are due to my office by Thursday May 8<sup>th</sup>. Each lab is worth 40 points. YOU MAY DO THE LABS IN ANY ORDER THAT YOU WISH.

Labs will vary in the amount of time it takes to complete them. Some labs may be finished in a day- others may take several days. You will need to have access to a computer to run the lab simulations. If you do not have a computer at home, you may come into ACC and use one of the computers on campus. Please contact me early so that we can make arrangements. It is your responsibility to read through each lab and make sure you leave your self plenty of time to complete the lab in a timely fashion. *In other words- you must budget your time in this course wisely.*

Labs must be turned in by the deadline date. **Each day a lab is turned in after the deadline, 5 points will be deducted from the original 40 points.** There are no exceptions to this rule. Thus it is your responsibility to get labs in a timely fashion Labs that do not reach me by Friday May 9<sup>th</sup> will receive 0 credit. Labs may be mailed to my office, faxed to me, emailed, turned into my mailbox at RVS, or turned in person. If you turn labs in by campus mail, **make sure** the person in the mailroom date stamps the lab so that you receive maximum credit for your work. Please make sure your name is on all pages if you fax the lab to me!! Labs may be turned in before the deadline date if a student wishes to complete the course early. In general, labs will be graded within one week of their receipt.

The labs are is self-explanatory and designed to be used by students on their own. Each lab contained as introduction to the material and a step by step set of instructions to run through the exercise. To complete each lab you will follow the exercise

instructions, and turn in the original labs with the questions typed or neatly printed on the original lab exercise sheets.

**EXTRA CREDIT:** There will be 2 extra credit assignments available by completing 2 extra assignments from the Ecobeaker software package described above. You may turn extra credit assignment in by the unit 4 deadline date to receive credit for the assignment.

<b>GRADES:</b>	<b>POINTS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Unit Exams	150 (x 4 units)	600
Assignments	40 (x 8 units)	320
Extra Credit	40 (x 2 optional)	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>920 points</b>

#### LETTER GRADES

Percentage	Letter Grade
90-100% +	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
less than 60%	F

**Note: I do not curve**

**INCOMPLETE:** An incomplete is only given when a student has already completed 70% of the course, and has a documented, valid emergency/ reason. Thus you must have complete 4 units of the course, and have a C average on completed work. You must request an incomplete in writing before May 5th, and you must provide me with documentation. I reserve the right to verify your documentation.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** Please provide me with written documentation from Student Services stating the types of necessary accommodations. Please get these to me ASAP, so I can have the materials ready for you in a timely fashion.

#### **COURSE POLICIES:**

**Withdrawals:** If you decide to drop the course you are responsible to complete all the necessary

#### **Statement on Scholastic Dishonesty**

"Acts prohibited by the college for which discipline may be administered include scholastic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an exam or quiz, plagiarizing, and unauthorized collaboration with another in preparing outside work.

Academic work submitted by students shall be the result of their thought, research or self-expression. Academic work is defined as, but not limited to, tests, quizzes, whether taken electronically or on paper, projects, either individual or group, classroom presentation; and homework."

### **Statement on Academic Freedom:**

"Institutions of higher education are conducted for the common good. The common good depends upon the search for truth and upon free expression. In this course the professor and the students shall strive to protect free inquiry and the open exchange of facts, ideas, and opinions. Students are free to take exception to the views offered in this course and reserve judgment about debatable issues. Grades will not be affected by personal views. With this freedom comes the responsibility of civility and a respect for the diversity of ideas and opinions. This means that students must take turns speaking, listening to others without interruption, and refrain from name-calling or other personal attacks."

### ***HOW TO STUDY FOR THIS COURSE:***

In a regular class format, I require students to spend at least two hours outside of class for every hour spent "in the classroom" **in order to pass this class**. So be prepared to spend at least 15 hours per week on reading assignments, homework etc. Many of these concepts will appear difficult at first- it takes time to read, reread, and comprehend the material. Homework will take at least 2-3 hours for the student who has prepared him/herself by reading the material first. Otherwise they will take much longer. Thus if you do not have a minimum of 15 hours to spend each and every week, you may wish to consider withdrawing from this class.

1. Read the material in the study guide first. This will give you an idea of the main topics.
2. Read the assigned pages from the book, spending time on the graphs, tables and figures. **I will expect you to understand these figures and be able to reproduce them- they will reappear in homework assignments and tests.**
3. Make notes as you go along. Pay attention to those concepts and figures that give you trouble.
4. Call me during office hours, email me, or come in for help.
5. Practice defining terms and answering the study questions I have provided. Again these terms and questions are highly relevant and are likely to appear on homework and tests.
6. Study for short periods at a time- 30 minutes several times a day. This is much more effective than one marathon session the day before the unit exam. (Hint- this last one does not work).
7. See <http://opc.austin.cc.tx.us/handbook.htm> - a student handbook geared towards

distance learners.

## TAKING TESTS IN THE TESTING CENTER

Unit exams will be available at each of the testing centers. **Please make sure to leave sufficient time to take the test. Many times the testing centers are full and students have to wait several hours before they get in.** It is your responsibility to finish the tests by the deadline date.

1. **Bring your student ID to the testing center** and fill out the testing form. After you have completed the exam, retain your test form copy. This is your verification that you took the exam, in case the test becomes lost in the mail. If you don't have a ACC ID- get it ASAP.
2. It will take me one week after the unit exam date to grade your test. After that point you can call me, or e-mail me for your grade. If you call me, please leave your name and number **SLOWLY** (I am a number idiot).

UNIT	TOPIC	READINGS
1	Scientific Inquiry Organization of Life DNA & Reproduction Physical Biogeography	(See study guide for information about the readings for each chapter)
2	Introduction to Evolution Variation Selection Population Genetics Speciation, Extinction, and Historical Biogeography	
3	Population Characteristics Population Growth Population Regulation Human Impact	
4	Community Interactions	(NOTE: this is combined unit 4 and 5 of the study guide)

Community Structure  
Disturbance &  
Nonequilibrium  
Trophic Structure & Energy  
Nutrient Cycles  
Human Impact

**UNIT EXAM DATES: These dates are MANDATORY with no make-ups. Please do not call and ask for an extension.**

Unit 1	April 1st
Unit 2	April 15th
Unit 3	April 28 <sup>th</sup>
Unit 4	May 8th

**COMPREHENSIVE ESSAY FINAL: May 9 th (RVS TESTING CENTER ONLY)  
REMEMBER THIS CAN REPLACE A**

**UNIT EXAM GRADE (INCLUDING A MISSED EXAM).**

Note: Essay exams take time to grade, and it takes testing centers several days to get the tests back to me.

**PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN TO THE INSTRUCTOR BEFORE LEAVING  
OR TURN INTO MY OFFICE BY April 15th**

**Bio 2406 – Ecology & Evolution**

**PRN SPRING 2008, Section # 14503**

**NAME** (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE #** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

**TESTING CENTER YOU PREFER** \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the materials in the syllabus and presented by the instructor. I realize that it is my responsibility to complete each unit test on time and turn in lab assignments on time. Failure to do so will result in a 0 on that test or lab. **I understand that there are no makeup exams in this class.**

I understand that anyone caught cheating in this class, by the instructor or by the testing center, will receive an F for the entire course and may have a letter placed into their permanent student file.

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_