

**SYLLABUS BIOL 3336 – ECOLOGY****SPRING 2025****INSTRUCTOR: Jared Dickson**

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00 am – 12:30pm or by appointment

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** Study of the interrelationships of plants and animals with the environment. Co-requisite: BIOL 3137. Prerequisites: BIOL 1306/1106, BIOL 1307/1107.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES/STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Develop the ability to evaluate scientific inquiry on issues in the field of Ecology.
2. Learn the various mechanisms that organisms use in interacting with both the physical and natural world.
3. Understand the structure and function of different types of ecosystems.
4. Learn techniques for gathering, analysis and interpretation of data, including how to present scientific information in figures and tables.
5. Develop an understanding and appreciation of the importance of the natural world in their own personal lives.
6. Become proficient in writing both in an organized and concise manner but also in the specific format used by scientists.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:** Marchetti, M.P., J.L. Lockwood, and M.F. Hoopes. 2023. Ecology in a changing world. W.W. Norton & Company, Inc. New York, NY.

**EVALUATION:** Students will be evaluated based on the following work:

1. Participation 10%. This will include keeping up with readings, attendance, and actively participating in class discussions.
2. Group Project 20%. Group presentations/projects over assigned topic relevant to material covered.
3. Examinations. Two midterms (20% each) and a final exam (30%) will be given.
4. We will follow a 10-point scale for grading:  
90-100% = A      80-89% = B      70-79 = C      60-69% = D      0-59% = F

**SUPPLEMENTS:** Illustrations, announcements and PowerPoint presentations will be available on Canvas immediately following each lecture. Students should actively listen and take notes in lecture for optimal performance in this class. These materials are strictly for your own use, and are not to be disseminated to anyone else, under any circumstances. Lectures will be supplemented with films shown during class. These will provide new information or reaffirm the information presented in lecture. Both lectures and supplements represent testable material.

## TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

### Lecture Topics (Ch)

Ecology in the Anthropocene (Introduction) (1); Quantitative Reasoning (2) Global Climate and Biomes (3); Evolution and Speciation (4); Individuals: Physiology and Behavior (5)

**February 20 – Exam 1**

Populations (6); Competition (7); Exploitation (8); Mutualism and Facilitation (9); Multispecies Interactions and Food Webs (10)

**March 27 – Exam 2**

Biodiversity (11); Spatial Dynamics (12); Communities through Time (13); Nutrient Cycling and Ecosystem Services (14); Anthropocene Ecology (15)

**Thursday, May 1 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. – Final Exam**

### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

January 27: Census Date

March 17 - 21: Spring Break

April/May 28 - 2: Final Exam Week

May 3: End of Term

**HONOR CODE/ ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** Students should be aware that absolute academic integrity is expected of every student in all undertakings at The University of Texas at Tyler. Failure to comply can result in strong university-imposed penalties. Plagiarism (copying the work of others without proper citation), talking during test time, having mobile electronic devices on (cell phones, PDA's, laptops) during exams are some examples of behavior to be avoided.

**UT TYLER HONOR CODE:** Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

Be forewarned that while taking an exam, the possession of anything containing course content will be considered cheating, whether or not you actually refer to it during the exam. TALKING during an EXAM to anyone other than the instructor or proctor will automatically be considered cheating. It does not matter what you were talking about. This includes the use of cell phones (even if they call YOU) or any other electronic device that could be used to record test material. Violation of this policy will be considered cheating and treated accordingly. Penalties for cheating include anything from a zero on the exam or quiz during which the cheating occurred, up to an F for the course in question.

You are encouraged to study together and to discuss information and concepts covered in lecture with other students. You can give and receive "consulting" help. However, this

permission to cooperate should never involve one student having possession of a copy of all or part of work done by someone else, in the form of digital or hard copy. If copying occurs, both the student who copied the work from another student and the student who gave material to be copied will both automatically receive a zero for the assignment. Penalty for violation of this Code can also be extended to include failure of the course and University disciplinary action. See more below under 'Student Standards of Academic Conduct.'

**EXAMS:** It is your responsibility to arrive at the exam on time. All exams will be held in our regular classroom. Students who arrive late will not be given additional time, and anyone arriving after other students have finished and left will not be permitted to take the exam. Failing to take a scheduled examination will result in a score of 0 unless replaced by a make-up exam in a timely fashion. 'Make-up' examinations are given only in cases where there is a documented excuse beyond your reasonable control:

- Illness – you must have a physician note indicating that you were not in a physical condition to take the exam at the scheduled time. A note from a family member is insufficient.
- Death or grave illness in your immediate family.
- Significant scheduling conflicts (e.g., med-school interviews, or other university sponsored events). You must notify the instructor at least 2 weeks in advance of this absence.

The nature of the make-up exam will be decided by the instructor and may consist of a written and/or oral examination.

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES

**STUDENT ABSENCE FOR UNIVERSITY-SPONSORED EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES:** If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

**RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS:** Religious holy days sometimes conflict with class and examination schedules. The University policy is that students who miss course work due to the observance of a religious holy day must be given the opportunity to complete the work missed within a reasonable time after the absence, provided that the instructor is notified in advance. Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

**DISABILITY SERVICES:** In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychiatric disabilities. If you have a disability, including non-visible disabilities such as chronic diseases, learning disabilities, head injury, PTSD or ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment you are encouraged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources office and schedule an interview with the Accessibility Case Manager/ADA

Coordinator, Cynthia Lowery Staples. If you are unsure if the above criteria applies to you, but have questions or concerns please contact the SAR office. For more information or to set up an appointment please visit the SAR office located in the University Center, Room 3150 or call 903.566.7079. You may also send an email to [cstaples@uttyler.edu](mailto:cstaples@uttyler.edu)

**STUDENTS RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:** To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link:  
<http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/StudentRightsandResponsibilities.html>

**SOCIAL SECURITY AND FERPA STATEMENT:** It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

**EMERGENCY EXITS AND EVACUATION:** Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. **Do Not** re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

**UT TYLER A TOBACCO-FREE UNIVERSITY:** All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors. Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products. There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit [www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free](http://www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free).

**CAMPUS CARRY:** We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. Please be aware that many research and teaching laboratories in the Department of Biology are approved Exclusion Zones. Be alert to signage throughout the HPR and BEP buildings. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>

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**GRADE REPLACEMENT/FORGIVENESS AND CENSUS DATE POLICIES:** Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in

which the course will be repeated. (For Spring 2021, the Census Date is January 25th.) Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date (25 January 2021) is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a "W" grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment

**STATE-MANDATED COURSE DROP POLICY:** Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

**STUDENT STANDARDS OF ACADEMIC CONDUCT:** Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

(i) "Cheating" includes, but is not limited to:

- copying from another student's test paper;
- using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
- possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed "crib notes". The presence of textbooks

constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;

- using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
- collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
- discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination; divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructors has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
- substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
- paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
- falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
- taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
- misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.

(ii) “Plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the submission of it as one’s own academic work offered for credit.

(iii) “Collusion” includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

(iv) All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by SafeAssign™, available on Canvas.

### **Important Covid-19 Information for Classrooms and Laboratories**

Students are required to wear face masks covering their nose and mouth, and follow social distancing guidelines, at all times in public settings (including classrooms and laboratories), as specified by [Procedures for Fall 2020 Return to Normal Operations](#). The UT Tyler community of Patriots views adoption of these practices consistent with its [Honor Code](#) and a sign of good citizenship and respectful care of fellow classmates, faculty, and staff.

Students who are feeling ill or experiencing symptoms such as sneezing, coughing, or a higher than normal temperature will be excused from class and should stay at home and may join the class remotely. Students who have difficulty adhering to the Covid-19 safety policies for health reasons are also encouraged to join the class remotely. Students needing additional accommodations may contact the Office of Student Accessibility and Resources at University Center 3150, or call (903) 566-7079 or email [saroffice@uttyler.edu](mailto:saroffice@uttyler.edu).

**Recording of Class Sessions**

Class sessions may be recorded by the instructor for use by students enrolled in this course. Recordings that contain personally identifiable information or other information subject to FERPA shall not be shared with individuals not enrolled in this course unless appropriate consent is obtained from all relevant students. Class recordings are reserved only for the use of students enrolled in the course and only for educational purposes. Course recordings should not be shared outside of the course in any form without express permission.