

UND Biology BIOL 332L – General Ecology Laboratory Fall 2005

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Prerequisite or co-requisite: General Ecology (Biology 332)

Course Description and Objectives:

The purpose of this course is to expose students to the practice of ecology. This course will allow students to conduct ecological research, analyze ecological data and present results. Throughout the semester we will conduct field trips to a number of different habitats in and around Grand Forks. Field trips will occur no matter what the weather – so dress appropriately.

By the end of the course students should be able to describe or explain some ecological methods, should be able to describe some of the habitats around Grand Forks, should be able to conduct simple data analysis, should have developed good field habits (e.g., keeping accurate field notes), and should be able to effectively communicate ecological findings.

Evaluation:

Lab reports (7 at 10% each)	70%	A ≥ 90%
Note book	10%	B ≥ 80%
Presentation	10%	C ≥ 70%
Final Exam	10%	D ≥ 60%

Entrance tickets: For each lab there will be an entrance ticket that you must hand in at the beginning of the lab. If you do not hand in the ticket you will not be able to participate in the lab and if you do not participate in the lab you will not be able to hand in the report. The entrance tickets will involve answering a couple of questions that show you are prepared to perform the lab. These should be easy to do if you read and understand the lab ahead of time.

Lab reports: There are seven different research projects that we will focus on throughout the semester. Each will have a written report due 1 week after we have finished working on the project in lab. The reports will focus on questions about the project and should only take up to 2 pages of single spaced text (supporting figures or tables won't count toward that limit). Hand written reports will not be accepted. Late reports will not be accepted. We will tend to work together in groups of 2-3 during the lab but each student will need to work independently on their reports.

Presentation: At the end of the semester students will give presentations. The presentations will be based on the lab projects. More details about the presentation will follow.

Note book: Keeping field notes is an important habit to develop as a field ecologist. It is often impossible to remember details about where and when samples were gathered when you are analyzing and interpreting your data. More details about the notebook will follow.

Final exam: The final exam will cover all the material, both background material and methodology, from the seven research projects. It will also cover material presented by your fellow students during the presentations.

Missed labs: There is no opportunity for make up labs. If you miss a lab for a valid, documentable reason (which must be accepted by your Instructor or the Co-ordinator) then we will assign a library project. The sooner you see us the sooner we can work something out.

Lab Schedule:

Week of	Topic	Location	Assignment Due
Aug. 22	No lab		
Aug. 29	Project 1: Flowers and computers	On campus	
Sep. 5	Labor Day – no labs		
Sep. 12	Project 1: Flowers and computers (con't)	Computer lab	
Sep. 19	Project 2: Prairie insect diversity	Oakville Prairie	Project 1
Sep. 26	Project 3: Sampling a forest	Forest River	
Oct. 3	Project 4: Fish population size and dispersal	Turtle River State Park	Project 3
Oct. 10	Project 4: Fish population size and dispersal (con't)	Turtle River State Park	
Oct. 17	Project 5: Herbivore-predator interactions	Oakville Prairie	Project 4
Oct. 24	Project 5: Herbivore-predator interactions (con't)	In lab	
Oct. 31	Project 6: Cemetery demography	Grand Forks	Project 5
Nov. 7	Project 2: Prairie insect diversity (con't)	In lab	Project 6
Nov. 14	Project 7: Predator-prey models	Computer lab	Project 2
Nov. 21	Presentation prep	In lab	Project 7
Nov. 28	Presentations	In lab	
Dec. 5	Presentations	In lab	
Dec 13	Final Exam (regular class time)		

Policies:

If you need to provide emergency medical information, if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, or if you need accommodations in this course because of a disability, please make an appointment with the Co-ordinator as soon as possible. If you plan to request disability accommodations, you are expected to register with the Disability Support Services (DSS) office (190 McCannel Hall, 777-3425 v/tty).

Academic dishonesty (see the Code of Student Life) will result in a mark of 0 on the exam/assignment. A second act of academic dishonesty will result in a mark of 0 in the course.