**COURSE SYLLABUS – BIO 363 Ecology**

**(Fall 2020)**

**Instructor:** Levent Ozturk (Lozturk@sabanciuniv.edu)

**TA:** Ayşe Nur Cin (aysecin@sabanciuniv.edu)

**Office & Hours:** Any time by appointment.

**Lecture Sessions:** Monday, 8:40-9:30 am; Wednesday, 8:40-10:30 am

**Zoom Link and Passcode:** (passcode subject to change at intervals)

https://sabanciuniv.zoom.us/j/7260077994?pwd=YkViSGR4T3BYc20rRDRKWjdkWCtnUT09

Meeting ID: 726 007 7994

Passcode: linkLO

**Textbook, on-line resources, instructor slides, and other course materials:**

1. Textbook: Elements of Ecology 9th International Edition, Thomas M. Smith & Robert Leo Smith Pearson Education Limited, 2015. San Francisco, CA. ISBN: 978-0321736079

\*Use the link below to purchase the “access card+book” bundle as soon as possible to access e-text and other on-line content:

<https://www.homerbooks.com/urun/elements-of-ecology-9e>

(links to other online resources and Pearson education system)

<https://session.masteringbiology.com/myct/courseHome#/>

<https://www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com/northamerica/masteringbiology/>

2. Instructor slides: Will be available on SUcourse+ (restricted for redistribution, subject to international copyrights).

3. Computer with camera and internet connection. Make sure your battery is charged and you have a smartphone hotspot connection ready as a backup to home internet to be able to participate in-session quizzes without interruption.

**Course Description:**

This course is designed to introduce the science of ecology in a comprehensive manner. The concept of “adaptation through natural selection” is used to link diverse patterns and processes in terrestrial and aquatic systems across hierarchical levels (i.e. individual, population, community, ecosystem). The course starts with an introduction of ecology as an interdisciplinary science. The content is delivered in five main sections. Section one describes major physical constraints imposed on organisms living in aquatic and terrestrial environments. Section two explains how these physical constraints lead to adaptation and natural selection with a highlight on autrotroph and heterotroph organisms. The third section explores properties and dynamics of populations as a function of evolution, natural selection and life history. Section four discusses “intraspecies” and “interspecies” interactions as affected by the physical environment, natural selection and population dynamics. The final section explores “ecological communities” and the factors affecting distribution and abundance of species across temporal and spatial environmental gradients. Ecological communities and their interactions with their physical environment will be explained by the “ecosystem” concept with an emphasis on energy and nutrient flow through these systems. Communities and ecosystems will be finally discussed on the level of biogeography to explore broad-scale distribution of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, and the biological diversity therein under the influence of past, current and projected climate change due to human activities.

**Grading Policy (% overall impact):**

Attendance to lecture sessions (15%) – Missing >10 min of a session will be regarded as absence (student presentation sessions have a separate attendance policy, see below).

Homework (15%) – There will be four homework assignments throughout the term.

Quizzes (15%) – A short on-line quiz will be given at the beginning of each lecture session.

Presentation (25%) – (see “Student Presentation Rules and Schedule” below)

Final Exam (30%) – Online exam composed of randomized essay, fill-in-the-blanks and multiple-choice type questions

**Make-up Policy:**

Missing the in-session quizzes, not making the assigned chapter presentation, and missing the final exam all result in a zero grade for that specific grading item. Quizzes have no make-ups since they also account for attendance. No scheduled make-up exam will be offered for a missed final exam. In case a student misses the final exam due to an emergency with a valid excuse (*e.g.* a written proof of doctor’s report, accident report, etc.) the instructor and TA must be informed within the same week. In such a case, a separate final exam (in a structured full essay format) will be given at a time and date determined by the instructor.

**Policies on Attendance, Classroom Behavior and Cheating:**

Attendance to all on-line live lecture sessions is essential for understanding and interpreting the course material and asking questions to the instructor. Attendance will be imposed by “in-session quizzes” given within at the first 5-10 minutes of each session with an overall impact of 20% on the final grade. Student presentation sessions have a distinct attendance policy (see “Student Presentation Rules and Schedule” below).

In case of absence, it is the student’s responsibility to check the syllabus, retrieve the associated course materials from on-line resources (listed above) and discuss the missed sections with classmates. While it may not be possible to present all information in the course textbook in a fully detailed manner within the allocated lecture sessions, students will be responsible from all course slides, reading all assigned chapters and any other material presented during lectures (excluding the parts out of context as declared by the instructor).

Sabanci University’s regulations on plagiarism and cheating will be strictly enforced on students who help, attempt or conduct any form of cheating.

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF COURSE ACTIVITIES, ASSIGNMENTS & EXAMS**

**Important Note:** The text book chapters must be read before each session to answer in-session quiz questions.

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| **Week** | **Activity** |
| **1** | Chapter 1 Nature of Ecology* The Science of Ecology
* Hierarchical structure from individual organisms to the biosphere
* Ecosystems and ecological studies
* Scientific methodology, models, uncertainty
* Ecology as an interdisciplinary science

Video showcaseSession quiz |
| **2** | Chapter 2 Climate* Net radiation, seasonal variation
* Atmospheric circulation and ocean currents
* Atmospheric moisture, precipitation, continentality, topography
* Microclimates and ecosystems
* Climate warming: Ecological issues & applications

Video showcaseSession quiz |
| **3** | Chapter 3 The Aquatic Environment* The water cycle
* Unique properties of water
* Variation in light, temperature and oxygen in aquatic environments
* Water movement, tides, and estuaries
* Rising atmospheric carbon dioxide, ocean acidification and biodiversity

Video showcaseSession quiz**Homework assignment-I** |
| **4** | Chapter 4 The Terrestrial Environment* Evolution of life on land
* The struggle for light
* Formation and characteristics of soils
* Soils interact with the environment
* Land degradation: An ecological issues

Video showcaseSession quiz |
| **5** | Chapter 5 Adaptation and Natural Selection* Adaptation: A product of natural selection
* Genes: Units of heredity
* Phenotype and phenotypic plasticity
* Genetic Variation
* Natural Selection
* Genetic engineering

Session quiz |
| **6** | Chapter 6 Plant Adaptations to the Environment* Photosynthesis and respiration
* Water Movement
* Aquatic plants
* Interdependence of plant adaptations
* Plant adaptations to light, temperature, nutrient availability
* Trade-off between growth and tolerance
* Plant response to elevated CO2

Session quiz**Homework assignment-II** |
| **7** | Chapter 7 Animal Adaptations to the Environment* Body size
* Acquisition of energy and nutrients
* Oxygen uptake, water balance, energy exchange
* Thermal regulation and balance
* Habitat

Video showcase |
| **8** | Chapter 8 Properties of Populations* Unitary and modular organisms
* Distribution, abundance, population dynamics

Chapter 9 Population Growth* Types of life tables
* Mortality, survivorship, birthrate, net reproductive rate
* Habitat loss and extinction
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| **9** | Chapter 10 Life History* Forms of sexual reproduction
* Age at maturity, reproductive effort
* Life history strategies

Chapter 11 Intraspecific Population Regulation* Logistics of population growth
* Competition and territoriality
* Density, stress and dispersal

**Homework assignment-III** |
| **10** | Chapter 12 Species Interactions, Population Dynamics, and Natural Selection* Classification of species interactions
* Population dynamics, and natural selection

Chapter 13 Interspecific Competition* Competition model
* Nonresource factors
* Resource partitioning
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| **11** | Chapter 14 Predation* Forms and models
* Foraging and herbivory
* Coevolution of predator and prey

Chapter 15 Parasitism and Mutualism* Characteristics of parasitism and mutualism
* Parasite-host relationships
* Mutualistic interactions

**Homework assignment-IV** |
| **\*12** | Chapter 16 Community StructureChapter 17 Factors Influencing the Structure of CommunitiesChapter 18 Community DynamicsChapter 19 Landscape Dynamics |
| **\*13** | Chapter 20 Ecosystem EnergeticsChapter 21 Decomposition and Nutrient CyclingChapter 22 Biogeochemical CyclesChapter 23 Terrestrial Ecosystems |
| **\*14** | Chapter 24 Aquatic EcosystemsChapter 25 Coastal and Wetland EcosystemsChapter 26 Large-Scale Patterns of Biological DiversityChapter 27 The Ecology of Climate Change |

\*weeks of student presentation sessions

**Student Presentation Rules and Schedule**

1. Student presentations will be delivered during weeks 12 through 14 during the course hours (see schedule below) on Zoom via the screen share function on a live session. The full session will be recorded to use in grading and as a proof of attendance.

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| **Week of Term** | **Chapters** | **Presenting Students (\*TBA)****(two for each chapter)** | **Date and time** |
| 12 | Chapter 16 Community Structure | 1. Aaaaa Bbbbbb Ccccc
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| 12 | Chapter 17 Factors Influencing the Structure of Communities | 1. Aaaaa Bbbbbb Ccccc
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| 12 | Chapter 18 Community Dynamics | 1. Aaaaa Bbbbbb Ccccc
2. Aaaaa Bbbbbb Ccccc
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| 12 | Chapter 19 Landscape Dynamics | 1. Aaaaa Bbbbbb Ccccc
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| 13 | Chapter 20 Ecosystem Energetics | 1. Aaaaa Bbbbbb Ccccc
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| 13 | Chapter 21 Decomposition and Nutrient Cycling | 1. Aaaaa Bbbbbb Ccccc
2. Aaaaa Bbbbbb Ccccc
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| 13 | Chapter 22 Biogeochemical Cycles | 1. Aaaaa Bbbbbb Ccccc
2. Aaaaa Bbbbbb Ccccc
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| 13 | Chapter 23 Terrestrial Ecosystems | 1. Aaaaa Bbbbbb Ccccc
2. Aaaaa Bbbbbb Ccccc
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| 14 | Chapter 24 Aquatic Ecosystems | 1. Aaaaa Bbbbbb Ccccc
2. Aaaaa Bbbbbb Ccccc
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| 14 | Chapter 25 Coastal and Wetland Ecosystems | 1. Aaaaa Bbbbbb Ccccc
2. Aaaaa Bbbbbb Ccccc
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| 14 | Chapter 26 Large-Scale Patterns of Biological Diversity | 1. Aaaaa Bbbbbb Ccccc
2. Aaaaa Bbbbbb Ccccc
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| 14 | Chapter 27 The Ecology of Climate Change | 1. Aaaaa Bbbbbb Ccccc
2. Aaaaa Bbbbbb Ccccc
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\*to be announced

1. During the student presentation sessions, full time attendance is required (missing >10 min of a session will be regarded as absence). You may miss only one student presentation without a penalty, however if you miss more than one, then your final grade will be reduced by one letter grade (i.e. A to A-). In case a student misses a presentation session due to an emergency with a valid excuse (e.g. a written proof of doctor’s report, accident report, etc.) the instructor and TA must be informed within the same week.
2. Although your text book is the main source to build up your PowerPoint presentation, you are welcome to research other resources from the IC (<https://www.sabanciuniv.edu/bm/en>) and the internet to design and enrich your presentation.
3. Students assigned to a chapter are responsible for sharing the chapter content (i.e. sub-topics in a chapter) among themselves.
4. Having learned your presentation chapter and shared the sub-topics with your presentation partner, you should then prepare your slides (e.g. 10-15 slides) that would cover a 15 min (± 2 min) presentation. At the end of your presentation (in your last slide) ask a very important/relevant essay question and give the answer to it. Note that your question will appear in the final exam (with or without modifications). Trivial questions that are not relevant, professionally thought, grammatically perfect or do not really teach anything will be disregarded and replaced by the instructor.
5. Your presentation will be evaluated according to the criteria below (in order of priority), and your presentation grade will have an impact of 25% on your final letter grade as stated in the syllabus published in SUcourse+.
* A comprehensive coverage of the chapter sub-topics assigned
* Use of language, grammar, typeset, units of measurement
* Visual quality of the presentation material (titles, bullets, tables, font size, figures, tables, photos, slide numbers, etc.)
* Time management (15 ± 2 min)
* Voice modulation and use of interactive strategies
1. Presentations must be sent to the instructor via e-mail (Lozturk@sabanciuniv.edu) as a single “.pptx” file before the presentation day.
2. Some precautions during the student presentation sessions:
* Make sure your camera is working and turned on.
* The instructor will make the presenter a co-host to share his/her screen.
* Make sure the light is coming towards your face and not on your back.
* Have your smartphone hotspot connection ready as a backup to home internet.
* Keep your mic off if not presenting or asking a question to the presenter.