I. Locator Information:

Instructor: Dr. Finley Bryan  
Semester/year: Fall 2013  
Course: Biol 350 Ecology/ Evolution. Section 01. Biology 650 will involve additional activities.  
Semester hours: 04  
Day/Time Class Meets: Lecture: W 12:00 – 1:50 PM LSA 127  
Room/Building: Lab: F 12:00 – 1:50 PM in LS 114  
Office Location: LSA 240  
Cell Phone: 910-703-3411  
E-mail: fbryan1@uncfsu.edu  
Office Hours: T 2:00 – 3:00 PM W 3:00 – 4:00 PM else by appointment.

II. Course Description:

Ecology / Evolution is a study of:

- mechanisms governing the process of organic evolution,
- evolutionary relationships among living and extinct organisms, and
- the interactions between organisms and their environment, with
- two (2) hours of lab consisting of an observational/experimental study of the concepts of evolution and ecology.

Prerequisite: BIOL 200

This course will place emphasis on the landscape of FSU and the ecology and sustainability of Cross Creek.

III. Disabled Student Services:

In accordance with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ACA) of 1990, if you have a disability or think you have a disability to please contact the Center for Personal Development in the Spaulding Building, Room 155 (1st Floor); 910-672-1203.

IV. Required Textbooks:


No lab manual to purchase; however, lab directions, handouts, announcements and other information related to the course will be distributed, emailed and posted on the course Blackboard website.

The text is required for this class.

V. Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, the successful student will be able to:

- Read, understand, explain, and apply the basic concepts of ecology and evolution
- Describe the ecology of our local watershed, specifically the effects of FSU and surroundings on Cross Creek
- Perform basic forms of ecological observation, measurement, and hypothesis formation and testing
- Articulate the ecological relationship of humans and other living organisms to local ecosystems, and to surface and subsurface water
- Read, comprehend and discuss the literature.
VI. Course Requirements and Evaluation Criteria for Students:

1. Attend all classes and labs regularly and to keep scheduled appointments.
2. Be informed of the academic requirements of the instructor. An absence, excused or unexcused, does not relieve you of any course requirement.
3. Take all exams on the scheduled date. Make-up exams will not be given. One Exam will be dropped. This will compensate for emergencies where a student was unable to attend. In the extremely rare cases where a make-up exam is granted, any and all make-up exams will be administered during the final week of classes.
4. Complete all your assignments and work on time.
5. Notify me in advance if you will be absent. If necessary, send your paper via a friend and ask him/her to get your assignment, if any, and pick up any handouts.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of content covered in class including on the days of any absences.

I will assign the grade that I feel best expresses your learning and performance in the course using the following as my guide:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent of Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90 100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 - 89.9</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 - 79.9</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 - 69.9</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;60</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Attendance Requirement:

Attendance is required. I will evaluate the quality of your laboratory work and your contributions to class. Students are required to read the University attendance policy very carefully. It will be enforced in all classes as follows. If you have excessive absences, the instructor may not drop you as we approach the deadline for withdrawal; therefore, it is the students’ responsibility to obtain a withdrawal slip and withdraw if he/she does not want an earned grade!

**Deadline for withdrawal from course** is 22 March, from University is 19 April.

For a number of absences above 5, you may be dropped from the class. Three tardinesses or early departures will count as one absence. There are **no excused** absences. If a student is dropped from the class he/she must appeal the action in order to be allowed to complete the course. He/she should continue to attend the class until the appeal is accepted.

Graded Assignments:

The exams, presentations, quizzes and other graded assignments will be valued as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Number of Items*</th>
<th>Points/Item</th>
<th>Total points*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hourly Exams</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam (cumulative)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (drop 2 of 14)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation/ Paper</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Reports / Activities</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total points:</strong></td>
<td><strong>1000</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Number of items/total points may vary slightly from above.
Value of Each Assignment:

The value of each graded assignment is shown above (graded assignments). Record observations from all laboratory exercises in your notes. I may ask to examine your records at various times. Additional records of lab observations will be announced at the start of each laboratory meeting. Be sure to save all graded reports, all quizzes and all exams in an organized manner and be prepared to show them to me when requested.

Policy on Missed or Late Assignments:

There will be no excused absences. One exam grade will be dropped; plan to use this for any emergency. Make-up exams will be given only in the most extreme cases. Any make up exam will be given the last week of classes.

Policy on electronic devices:

They will be turned off during class. Consulting them during graded assignments results in grade of zero (0) for assignment. If these devices become a problem I will collect them at beginning of every class.

Policy on disruptive behavior in classroom:

FSU Policy on Disruptive Behavior in the Classroom

The Code of the University of North Carolina (of which FSU is a constituent institution) and the FSU Code of Student Conduct affirm that all students have the right to receive instruction without interference from other students who disrupt classes.

FSU Core Curriculum Learning Outcome under Ethics and Civic Engagement (6.03): All students will “prepare themselves for responsible citizenship by fulfilling roles and responsibilities associated with membership in various organizations.” Each classroom is a mini-community. Students learn and demonstrate responsible citizenship by abiding by the rules of classroom behavior and respecting the rights all members of the class.

The FSU Policy on Disruptive Behavior (see FSU website for complete policy) identifies the following behaviors as disruptive:

1. Failure to respect the rights of other students to express their viewpoints by behaviors such as repeatedly interrupting others while they speak, using profanity and/or disrespectful names or labels for others, ridiculing others for their viewpoints, and other similar behaviors;
2. Excessive talking to other students while the faculty member or other students are presenting information or expressing their viewpoints.
3. Use of cell phones and other electronic devices
4. Overt inattentiveness (sleeping, reading newspapers)
5. Eating in class (except as permitted by the faculty member)
6. Threats or statements that jeopardize the safety of the student and others
7. Failure to follow reasonable requests of faculty members
8. Entering class late or leaving class early on regular basis
9. Others as specified by the instructor.

The instructor may take the following actions in response to disruptive behavior. Students should recognize that refusing to comply with reasonable requests from the faculty member is another incidence of disruptive behavior.

1. Direct student to cease disruptive behavior.
2. Direct student to change seating locations.
3. Require student to have individual conference with faculty member. At this meeting the faculty member will explain the consequences of continued disruptive behavior.
4. Dismiss class for the remainder of the period. (Must be reported to department chair.)
5. Lower the student’s final exam by a maximum of one-letter grade.
6. File a complaint with the Dean of Students for more severe disciplinary action.

Students who believe the faculty member has unfairly applied the policy to them may make an appeal with the faculty member’s department chair.
VII. Academic Support Resources

During this class, especially in labs, we will use the following resources:
1. Different plant specimens, including those in the FSU Biological Reserve.
2. Several Internet Websites.
3. The Department/College Computer Lab.

VIII. Teaching Strategies

Lectures: the instructor will use a variety of lecture settings: chalk board, overhead projector showing transparencies, power point presentations, small group activities and discussions, etc. Student input by comments, discussions, and questions is encouraged. Students are given prompt feed back on assignments and exams as well as their accumulative point totals so they are aware of their progress in achieving a grade. Grades must be earned not given!

Labs: the instructor will give students hands on experience with the subject matter. Students will perform lab experiments, use the grow lights and computers to gain an understanding of modern botanical techniques.

IX. Bibliography

Students are encouraged to (1) use the library, (2) do supplemental reading in the plant sciences, and (3) read journal articles in various plant sciences journals.
A complete set of plant sciences journals can be found online at: http://www.e-journals.org/botany.


Links:
Nobel Prize winner Camilla Parmesan’s (et al.) 1999 letter to Nature. Ctrl click ...

X. Course Outline and Assignment Schedule:

On the Blackboard site, you will find the lecture and laboratory schedule. It is a proposed schedule, may change through the semester, and will be updated through the course.

Appropriate dress for conditions: Please note that for several labs (1, 10, 11, 12) we may spend time outside or in the greenhouse. Always come to lab dressed appropriately for walking out of doors or dealing with chemicals indoors. This means comfortable walking shoes, long pants, close-toed shoes, clothes that will not snag on branches or provide heartbreak if they are snagged.

Time and Location of Final Exam:
Wednesday December 11 12:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m. LSA 127