Ecology & Evolution - Grading Policies

Download the grading policies here.

Lecture Exams will be given during the normal lecture period (2:30 - 3:20 pm) on 4 dates during the semester. Each lecture exam is worth 100 points and will contain problems, short answers, definitions and essays. Although 4 exams will be given, your course grade will be based on your 3 best exam scores. Thus, you can choose to skip one of the exams or take all 4 and drop your lowest score. The choice is yours. Each exam will cover roughly the material since the last exam. The final examination is mandatory and is cumulative, covering the entire course.

    top 3 out of 4 exams x 100 points/exam = 300 points.
    final exam = 150 points.

Weekly Lab Quizzes: A short quiz will be given at the start of most laboratory sessions. The quiz will cover material from the previous week and questions based on the current laboratory exercise. Although we will drop your lowest quiz score, make-up quizzes are not given! Because quizzes are given promptly at the start of each lab session, you cannot afford to be late to lab!

    5 points each quiz x 6 quizzes = 30 points

Botany Garden Notes: All underlined and bolded questions answered. 20 points for questions from the tour.

Papers: Typed double spaced in correct format, writing clear and to the point, data correctly presented, analysis done correctly, discussion leads directly from the data and analysis, all tables and figures neatly done. Papers should have a minimum of 3 citations.

    a. Stream Diversity - 25 points
    b. Fluctuating Asymmetry - 25 points

Short Lab Write-Ups. Labs that are not written up as longer papers will be written up as short 1-page papers. As with the quizzes, we will drop your lowest Short Lab Write-Up in determining your grade.

    10 points each lab write-up x 5 write-ups = 50 points

Total Course Points:
Lecture - 450 points  
Lab - 150 points  
Total - 600 points

Grading Scale. Your grade will be based on your total points at the end of the semester. I will follow the traditional grading scale: A = 90-100%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, F = < 60%. Plus and minus grades will reflect scores close to these borders. If the scores of the class are too low overall, I will adjust this scale downward. If necessary, I will also adjust laboratory scores if there are differences among TAs in average scores. Any adjustments of scores will only help, not hurt, your final grade.

Grade Challenges. If you think there has been a mistake in the grading of your exam, you must submit to me your exam and a written explanation within 48 hours of receiving your exam.

Grade Posting. Grades will not be posted at the end of the semester. If you want to find out your course grade, turn in a stamped, self-addressed postcard with your final exam, and I will mail it out as soon as I set grades. If you do not do this, you will have to wait for grade reports to be issued. Grades will not be given out over the phone or in person. Your final exams will be available to examine in the Biology Office (120 Marsh) next semester. You may not keep your final exams.

Make-Up Exams. Because I am offering you greater flexibility and the chance to drop any one of the 4 midterm exams, no make-up exams will be given for any reason. Please do not ask me to do this! The only possible exception would be if you contacted me 24 hours before the exam and produced both a written medical excuse from your doctor and a note from the Dean's Office justifying your absence. Athletic events, deadlines or tests for other courses, and prior commitments do not qualify you for a make-up, although you can certainly use your 'dropped' exam for these purposes.

Also, remember that the final exam is mandatory, not optional, and that it will be cumulative, with questions covering the content of the entire course. Make sure that you are here for the midterms and for the final exam. I cannot administer early final exams because of plane tickets and holiday travel plans.

Go back to the BCORE 102 main page.