

**University of North Texas at Dallas**  
**Spring 2016**  
**SYLLABUS for Distance Learning**

**BIOL 2140\_30: Principles of Ecology 3 Hrs**

<b>Department of</b> Life and Health Sciences		<b>Division of</b> Liberal Arts and Life Sciences	
<b>Instructor Name:</b>	Dr. Donna Hamilton		
<b>Office Location:</b>	Room 250, Founders Hall		
<b>Office Phone:</b>	972-338-1522		
<b>Email Address:</b>	<a href="mailto:Donna.hamilton@untdallas.edu">Donna.hamilton@untdallas.edu</a>		
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Monday 10:00-12:00 Wednesday 10:00-12:00 Other times and days available by appt.		
<b>Classroom Location:</b>	Online		
<b>Class Meeting Days &amp; Times:</b>	Online		
<b>Course Catalog Description:</b>	Ecological and evolutionary approach to understanding distribution, abundance, dispersion and form-function diversity of organisms. Focus on organisms, their physiological and life history adaptations, and populations.		
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	None		
<b>Required Text:</b>	<p>Elements of Ecology Plus MasteringBiology with eText -- Access Card Package, 9/E Thomas M. Smith, <i>University of Virginia!</i></p> <p>Robert Leo Smith, (<i>Emeritus</i>) <i>West Virginia University!</i> ISBN-10: 0321934172 • ISBN-13: 9780321934178!</p> <p><b>You will only need the text for class assignments so if you prefer to purchase a paper text, that will be fine.</b></p>		
<b>Access to Learning Resources:</b>	<p>UNT Dallas Library:  phone: (972) 780-3625;  web: <a href="http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm">http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm</a></p> <p>UNT Dallas Bookstore:  phone: (972) 780-3652;  e-mail: <a href="mailto:1012mgr@fhcg.follett.com">1012mgr@fhcg.follett.com</a></p>		
<b>Course Goals or Overview:</b> The goals of this course are as follows -			
	<p><b>Students will engage in a comparative study of ecological processes and patterns. They will be able to discuss and demonstrate mastery in its quantification, explain the role of climate, populations dynamics, life histories, competition both inter and intra specifically, and the adaptive roles and basis in evolutionary history.</b></p>		

## Online/Hybrid Course Outline

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated in class or via class email or Blackboard announcement. Additional readings and activities may be added, these will be noted in the Readings and Activities/Assignments sections.

TOPICS	Timeline	Other Important Deadlines
Chapter1: The Nature of Ecology	Week of 1/19-1/25	
Chapter2: Climate	Week of 1/26-2/1	Pre survey
Chapter3: The Aquatic Environment	Week of 2/2-2/8	
Chapter 4: The Terrestrial Environment	Week of 2/9-2/15	EXAM 1
Chapter 5: Adaption and Natural Selection	Week of 2/16-2/22	JAR 1
Chapter 7: Animal! Adaptations to the Environment Chapter 8: Properties of Populations	Week of 2/23-2/29	
Chapter 9: Population Growth	Week of 3/1-3/7	
Chapter 10: Life History	Week of 3/8-3/14	EXAM 2
Chapter 12: Species Interactions	Week of 3/22-3/28	
Chapter 14: Predation	Week of 3/29-4/4	JAR 2
Chapter 15: Parasitism and Mutualism	Week of 4/5-4/11	EXAM 3
Chapter 16:Community Structure	Week of 4/12-4/18	
Chapter 19:Landscape! Dynamics	Week of 4/12-4/25	
Chapter22: Biogeochemical Cycles		
Chapter27: Ecology of Climate Change	Week of 4/26-5/2	Post survey EXAM 4

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## Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

### Grading Matrix:

Activities/Assignments		Total Points/Overall %
Pre and Post Survey	2@ 50 points each	100/ 8%
Homework	5@24 points each	120/ 10%
Chapter quizzes	14@10 points each	140/ 12%
Discussions	14@10 points each	140/ 12%
Journal Article Reviews	2@100 points each	200/ 16%
Exams	4@100 points each	400/ 33%
Comprehensive final	100	100/ 8%
<b>Total:</b>		<b>1200/100%</b>

### Grade Determination

**A = 90% or better**

**B = 80 – 89 %**

**C = 70 – 79 %**

**D = 60 – 69 %**

**F = less than 60%**

## **University Policies and Procedures**

### **Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):**

#### Chapter 7(7.004) Disability Accommodations for Students

The University of North Texas at Dallas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodations must first register with the Disability Services Office (DSO) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the DSO will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, DSO notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet/communicate with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Disability Services Office website at <http://www.untDallas.edu/disability>. You may also contact them by phone at 972-338-1777; by email at [UNTDdisability@untDallas.edu](mailto:UNTDdisability@untDallas.edu) or at Building 2, room 204.

#### **Blackboard Learn Accessibility Statement:**

University of North Texas at Dallas is committed to ensuring its online and hybrid courses are usable by all students and faculty including those with disabilities. If you encounter any difficulties with technologies, please contact our ITSS Department. To better assist them, you would want to have the operating system, web browser and information on any assistive technology being used. Blackboard Learn course management system's accessibility statement is also provided: <http://www.blackboard.com/Platforms/Learn/Resources/Accessibility.aspx>

**NOTE:** Additional instructional technology tools, such as Turnitin, Respondus, Panopto, and publisher cartridge content (i.e. MyLab, Pearson, etc.) may NOT be fully ADA compliant. Please contact our Disability Office should you require additional assistance utilizing any of these tools.

#### **Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy:**

Student's evaluations of teaching effectiveness is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT Dallas. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider students' evaluations to be an important part of your participation in this class.

**Assignment Policy:** I do not accept late work. If you have an excused absence or emergency, please let me know as soon as possible so we can make arrangements to make up those points.

#### **Academic Integrity:**

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Academic Integrity at [http://www.untDallas.edu/sites/default/files/page\\_level2/pdf/policy/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic\\_Integrity.pdf](http://www.untDallas.edu/sites/default/files/page_level2/pdf/policy/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic_Integrity.pdf) for complete provisions of this code.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabrication of information or citations, facilitating acts of dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students.

## **Classroom Policies**

### **Online Attendance and Participation:**

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance in the Blackboard classroom and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience, and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in the discussion board. Online presence and participation in all class discussions is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency. .

Attendance for this online or hybrid course is considered when you are logged in and active in Blackboard, i.e., posting assignments, taking quizzes, or completing Discussion Boards. To maintain financial aid award eligibility, activity must occur before the census date of the session or term of the course. Refer to <http://www.untDallas.edu/registrar> for specific dates. If you are absent/not active in the course shell, it is YOUR responsibility to let the instructor know immediately, upon your return, the reason for your absence if it is to be excused. All instructors must follow university policy 7.005 covering excused absences; however, it is the instructor's discretion, as outlined in the course syllabus, of how unexcused absences may or may not count against successful completion of the course

**Inclement Weather and Online Classes:** Online classes are not likely to be affected by campus closures due to inclement weather. Unless otherwise notified by your instructor via e-mail, online messaging, or online announcement, students should assume that assignments are due as scheduled.

### **Online "Netiquette:**

In any social interaction, certain rules of etiquette are expected and contribute to more enjoyable and productive communication. Emails, Discussion Board messages and/or any other forms of written communication in the online environment should use proper "netiquette" (i.e., no writing in all caps (usually denotes yelling), no curse words, and no "flaming" messages (angry, personal attacks).

Racial, ethnic, or gender slurs will not be tolerated, nor will pornography of any kind.

Any violation of online netiquette may result in a loss of points or removal from the course and referral to the Dean of Students, including warnings and other sanctions in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Student Rights Responsibilities and Conduct at <http://www.untDallas.edu/osa/policies>. Respect is a given principle in all online communication. Therefore, please be sure to proofread all of your written communication prior to submission.

### **Diversity/Tolerance Policy:**

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions in the online environment. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Dean of Students as the instructor deems appropriate.

**Technology Requirements:** In order to successfully access the materials in an online or hybrid course, UNT Dallas advises that your computer be equipped with the minimum system requirements.

Blackboard Learn 9.1 is the platform software for this course. Blackboard Learn supports major web browsers such as Windows Internet Explorer, Apple Safari, Mozilla Firefox, and Google Chrome. However, since the latter two are updated continually, some recent versions may not be compatible. If you experience difficulty accessing or using components of the course, try using Internet Explorer. Also, no matter what browser you use, always enable pop-ups. For more information see:

- <http://www.untDallas.edu/dlit/ecampus/requirements>
- [https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1\\_SP\\_12\\_and\\_SP\\_13/Student/040\\_Browser\\_Support\\_for\\_SP\\_13](https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1_SP_12_and_SP_13/Student/040_Browser_Support_for_SP_13)
- [https://learn.unt.edu/bbcswebdav/institution/BrowserCheck/check\\_full.html](https://learn.unt.edu/bbcswebdav/institution/BrowserCheck/check_full.html)