

Bergen Community College
Division of Mathematics, Science and Technology
Department of Biology and Horticulture

Principles of Ecology (BIO-227)

General Course Syllabus

Course Title: Principles of Ecology (BIO-227)

Course Description: This course deals with terrestrial and aquatic ecology. Topics covered include abiotic components of ecosystems, biogeochemical cycles, energy flow through ecosystems, population ecology, community and ecosystem ecology, biomes, ecological succession and paleoecology. Laboratory sessions include field work and measurements of various ecosystem parameters, analysis of the data in the laboratory, report writing and statistical analyses and practical reinforcement of lecture material.

Prerequisites: BIO-101 *General Biology I* and BIO-203 *General Biology II*

General Education Course: No

Course Credits: 4.0

Hours per week: 6.0: 3 hours lecture and 3 hours lab

Course Coordinator: Charles Sontag

Required Textbook: Smith, T.M. & Smith R.L. *Elements of Ecology* 7th Edition, Benjamin Cummings

Laboratory Manual: Field and lab notebooks will be kept as per your instructor's directions.

Student Learning Objectives

The student will be able to:

1. Research the historical perspective to the science of ecology.
2. Apply a vocabulary of ecological terms.
3. Discuss the abiotic components of ecosystems including energy flow through ecosystems and biogeochemical cycles.
4. Investigate the physical, chemical and biological methods which measure the effects of various pollutants on the environment.
5. Analyze our ongoing energy problems and their possible solutions.

Student Assessment tools:

The above student learning objectives will be generally assessed or evaluated by instructors using a variety of **assessment instruments** including **lecture exams, laboratory exams, quizzes, laboratory reports, written reports, presentations, projects, etc.** The decisions concerning the type or types and number of instruments that are used in a specific section of the course will be left to the instructor of that section. This information, when given by the instructor should be recorded by the student in the **Student Assessment Section** of this document.

COURSE CONTENT:

READINGS

UNIT TOPICS

1	I. Ecology: A historical perspective	Chap. 1
	II. The Scientific Method	Chap. 2
	III. Abiotic Components of the Environment	
	A. Climate	Chap. 4
	B. Water Balance	Chap. 5
	C. Thermal Balance	Chap. 6
	D. Light	Chap. 7
	E. Nutrients	Chap. 8
	F. Soils	Chap. 9
	G. Adaptation	Chap. 3
	H. Biogeochemical Cycles	Chap. 12
2	IV. The Ecosystem	
	A. The Ecosystem Defined	Chap. 10
	B. Energy Flow in Ecosystems	Chap. 11
	V. Community Dynamics	Chap. 28
	A. The Community Defined	
	B. Abiotic and Biotic Components	
	C. Island and Edge Communities	
	D. Community Patterns	
	E. Classification Systems	
	VI. Ecological Succession	Chap. 30
	A. Definitions of Succession	
	B. Dynamic Equilibrium– The Steady State–The Climax	
	C. Paleoecology	
3	VII. Population Ecology	
	A. Properties of Populations	Chap. 17
	B. Population Growth and Regulation	Chap. 18
	C. Competition	Chap. 19, 22
	D. Predation	Chap.
		23
	E. Symbiosis	Chap. 26, 27
4	VIII. Biomes and Ecosystems	
	A. Tundra	Chap. 13
	B. Boreal Forest	Chap. 14
	C. Desert	Chap. 13
	D. Temperate Deciduous Forests	Chap. 14
	E. Tropical Rain Forests	Chap. 14
	F. Fresh Water Ecosystems	Chap. 15

LABORATORY AND FIELD SCHEDULE

1. Lab and Field Protocol,
Library Resources and Report Writing
Use of Field Manuals and Keys
The Dissecting Microscope
Introduction to the Computer and the Internet
2. Biology Scavenger Hunt - Trip to the Saddle Brook River
3. Introduction to Harriman State Park.
4. Point Quarter at Harriman State Park.
5. Point Quarter at Harriman State Park (2).
6. Introduction to Weyweyanda
7. Point Quarter at Weyweyanda
8. Life History Patterns at Sleepy Hollow.
9. Tenafly Nature Center.
10. Meadowlands.
11. Data Analysis of Point Quarter.
12. Ecological Modeling the use of Computers in Ecology

Student Assessment:	Lecture Examinations_____	_____%
	Laboratory Component_____	_____%
	Student Project/Report _____	_____%
	Class Participation	_____%
	<u>Other</u> _____	_____%
	Total	100%

If you have a medical condition or develop a medical condition during this semester, which prevents you from fulfilling the requirements of this course, you must notify your physician. You and your physician must decide whether or not it is appropriate for you to remain in this course. If the decision is to remain in this course, please obtain a letter from your physician indicating that your continued participation in this course is appropriate and present it to the Department Chair.

Faculty Addenda: As per individual faculty member

Lecture Attendance: As per instructor;

Lab Attendance: As per instructor;

Policy Concerning Late Assignments: As per instructor;

Policy Concerning Make-Up Testing: As per instructor;

Safety Information: As per instructor and assigned exercise;

College Policies:

Student Responsibility

Students will be held responsible for reading all pertinent information in college publications regarding withdrawals, course drops, college deadlines, and tuition refunds. Students are responsible for compliance with the rules and regulations as stated in college publications.

Absence of Instructor

Students are expected to wait twenty minutes for a faculty member to come to class. If at the end of twenty minutes, the faculty member does not come, the students should sign an attendance sheet, which indicates the course, date, and time. A student should deliver the attendance sheet to the divisional office (A304) if between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or to the Evening Office (C107) if before 9:00 a.m. or after 5:00 p.m. Students cannot be penalized by faculty for not waiting longer than twenty minutes.

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism

Bergen Community College is committed to academic integrity – the honest, fair and continuing pursuit of knowledge, free from fraud or deception. Students are responsible for their own work. Faculty and academic support services staff will take appropriate measures to discourage academic dishonesty. **Plagiarism** is a form of academic dishonesty and may be a violation of U.S. Copyright laws. Plagiarism is defined as the act of taking someone else's words, opinions, or ideas and claiming them as one's own.

Consequences of Violations Academic Integrity

A. Instructor's Sanctions for a Violation

The faculty member will determine the course of action to be followed. This may include:

- Assigning a failing grade on the assignment;
- Assigning a lower final course grade;
- Failing the student in the course
- Other penalties appropriate to the violation;

In all cases, the instructor shall notify the Vice President of Student Services of the violation and the penalty imposed. The student has the right to appeal the decision of the instructor to the appropriate department head.

B. Institutional Sanctions for Violations

When a violation of academic integrity has been reported regarding a student, the Vice President of Student Services may impose disciplinary penalties beyond those imposed by the course instructor, which may include suspension or dismissal from the College. The student shall have the right to a hearing before the Vice President of Student Services or a designated judicial affairs committee. Judicial procedures governing violations of academic integrity are contained in the student handbook.

Class Attendance

All students are expected to attend punctually every scheduled meeting of each course in which they are registered. Attendance and lateness policies and sanctions are to be determined by the instructor for each section of each course. These will be established in writing on the individual course outline. Attendance will be kept by the instructor for administrative and counseling purposes.

Eating and Drinking

Eating or drinking in classrooms, lecture rooms, laboratories, gymnasium, swimming pool, or passageways is forbidden. Covered beverages only are permitted in the library. Eating and drinking are permitted in cafeteria and vending areas only.

Learning Assistance

Henry and Edith Cerullo Learning Assistance Center

The Tutoring Center, English Language Resource Center, Math Walk-In Center and Writing Center are collectively known as the Henry and Edith Cerullo Learning Assistance Center. The Cerullo Learning Assistance Center is located in the Pitkin Education Building, in Room L-125. The telephone number is (201) 447-7489. The Learning Assistance Center, staffed with peer and professional tutors, offers free individual and group tutoring, supplemental instruction, and online tutoring for subjects offered at the College. The Center provides alternative approaches to problem solving and organizational skills. Tutors help clarify classroom lectures and textbooks and help students prepare for exams. These services build student self-confidence and reduce fear of failure. The Center is equipped with the latest technology and software, including tapes, books, review sheets, exercises and software.

Services for Students with Disabilities

Bergen Community College aims to create inclusive learning environments where all students have maximum opportunities for success. Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Specialized Services at 201-612-5269 or via email at ossinfo@bergen.edu for assistance.

Sidney Silverman Library

Main Building, Pitkin Education Center, L-wing, 2nd Floor.

Paramus Library Hours: (21) 447-7131 or visit

<http://www.bergen.edu/library/calendar/gcal.htm>

Paramus Service Desk: (201) 447-7970

Meadowlands Location: 1280 Wall Street, Lyndhurst 2nd Floor

Meadowlands Library Hours: <http://www.bergen.edu/library/calendar/gcal.htm>

Meadowlands Service Desk: (201) 301-9692

www.bergen.edu/library

Testing Services

The Bergen Community College Office of Testing Services (OTS) is located in Room S-127. OTS serves the college community by identifying, developing, procuring, administering, processing, and/or evaluating examinations, which meet a variety of administrative and instructional needs. To contact the OTS, please call (201) 447-7202. The Office of Testing Services administers makeup tests as a service for students who, for compelling and exceptional reasons, have missed a scheduled classroom examination. Students must receive prior permission from and make arrangements with their course instructors to take these examinations, under specific conditions, in the Office of Testing Services, Room S-127.

WebAdvisor

WebAdvisor is a web interface that allows students to access information contained in Datatel's Colleague, the administrative database used by Bergen Community College. Students may use WebAdvisor to register for classes, to pay tuition and fees, to view their class schedules, to check grades, to check on progress toward degree requirements, etc. WebAdvisor accounts are available for all students enrolled in credit programs. New students are strongly encouraged to attend an in-person registration or advisement session before using a WebAdvisor account. Eligible students without WebAdvisor user names and passwords may access their WebAdvisor account by going to go.bergen.edu and selecting "I'm new to WebAdvisor." Then, follow the on-screen directions. Check the WebAdvisor FAQ for answers to common questions, such as how to reset your password. Students must have a valid e-mail address on file with the College to use WebAdvisor