

Evolutionary Ecology

BIO 6351

Lecture: MW 5:00-6:15pm CAV 123
Final Exam: Wednesday, May 11, 6:00-8:00pm, CAV 123

Instructor Information

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Office Hours: MWRF 8:30-10:00am; Other times by appointment

Course Description

In-depth evolutionary examination of ecological principles that have and continue to influence the distribution and abundance of species.

Learning Outcomes

1. Gain a basic understanding of the subject (e.g., factual knowledge, principles, theories)
 - Students will learn the terminology and methods applicable to evolutionary ecology
 - Students will be able to discuss the sources and role of phenotypic variation
 - Students will be able to discuss evolutionary strategies in response to uncertainty
2. Developing specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field
 - Students will gain a broader understanding and appreciation for the complexities of adapting to a variable and ever-changing environment

Text

Evolutionary Ecology: Concepts and Case Studies by Fox, Roff, and Fairbairn

Attendance

Attendance is expected for the course. Arriving late and leaving early may result in one percentage point deduction from the final course grade for each occurrence. You are responsible for all material presented in lecture and in the reading assignments. Instructor notes will NOT be provided.

Topic Presentation and Handouts

You will be required to present a chapter from the book during one class period. You will be assigned a chapter to read and understand at a level that you can present to the class. In addition to the presentation, you will prepare a 1-2 page summary handout that can serve as a concise study guide for your fellow classmates. You will be expected to utilize outside resources to help you understand the material in the textbook so that you can answer questions during the presentation.

Exams

The lecture will consist of two exams and a comprehensive final exam. These exams are the primary method used to assess progress on the learning goals.

Make-up Exams

I understand that special circumstances beyond one's control can result in the inability to attend class when an exam is given. For these circumstances, a make-up exam may be scheduled provided that I was notified prior to the exam (scheduled absence) or at the next class attended. Make-up exams must be completed within 1 week of the absence.

Point Breakdown

Final grades will be assigned as follows: A=100-90%, B=89-80%, C=79-70%, F=69% or lower. Standard rounding methods will be used (round up for 0.5 or higher). The percentage breakdown for each portion of the course is listed in the table below:

Assignments	Percentage
Presentation	15%
Presentation Handout	5%
Exams (2 at 30% each)	60%
Final Exam	20%

Academic Dishonesty

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is contained in the [Angelo State University Student Handbook](#) and the [Angelo State University Catalog](#). Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in all work. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject of disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU. The College of Science and Engineering adheres to the university's [Statement of Academic Integrity](#).

Special Accommodations

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. If any member of the class feels that they have a disability and needs special accommodations, then please contact an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at ADA@angelo.edu. For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the [Student Disability Services website](#). Remember, it is your responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs.

Religious Holy Days

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.

Title IX

The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including: sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance.

Students are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU's Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator at:

Michelle Boone, J.D.
Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator
Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
325-486-6357
michelle.boone@angelo.edu

You may also file a report online 24/7 at <http://www.angelo.edu/incident-form>. If you are wishing to speak to someone about an incident in confidence you may contact the University Health Clinic and Counseling Center at 325-942-2173 or the ASU Crisis Helpline at 325-486-6345. For more information about Title IX in general you may visit <https://www.angelo.edu/title-ix>.

Technology in the Classroom

Many students are using laptops and tablets to take notes despite the research that suggests hand-written note taking results in better retention of the lecture material. Using laptops or tablets for note taking is OK in this course as long as the use of this technology is to aid in learning during this course. Using these devices for other purposes during lecture or lab will not be tolerated. **Cell phone usage is prohibited** (bring a scientific calculator if you need to use a calculator). Being told to put your cell phone and/or other electronic device away will result in a 2-percentage point deduction in your final course grade.

Class Schedule

This schedule is tentative and subject to change. Reading assignments should be completed before class.

Week	Topic	Chapter	Misc
1/17/2022	Introduction	1	
1/24/2022	Variation	1-2	
1/31/2022	Variation; Natural Selection and Adaptation	2	
2/07/2022	Natural Selection and Adaptation	3-4	
2/14/2022	Natural Selection and Adaptation	3-4	Exam #1
2/21/2022	FDS and Fitness Sets		
2/28/2022	Fitness Set Analysis		
3/07/2022	Ecological Specialization vs Generalization	14	
3/14/2022	Spring Break		
3/21/2022	Ecological Specialization vs Generalization	14	
3/28/2022	Visual Ecology and Mimicry		Exam #2
4/04/2022	Visual Ecology and Mimicry		
4/11/2022	Foraging Theory	18	
4/18/2022	Foraging Theory	18	Presentation/Handouts Due
4/25/2022	Presentations		Drop Date 4/28
5/02/2022	Presentations		
5/09/2022	Final Exam: Scheduled for Wednesday, May 11, 6-8 pm; Time and date are flexible		