

Ecology (BIOSC 0370)

Fall 2002 Syllabus

Faculty

Dr. Rick Relyea
101 Clapp Hall, 624-4656
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10-11 AM or by appointment
E-mail: relyea@pitt.edu

Dr. Walter Carson
154A Crawford Hall, 624-5496
Office Hours: 12:30 – 1:30 PM or by appointment
E-mail: walt@pitt.edu

Lectures

Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00 AM-12:20 PM A224 Langley Hall

Textbook

The textbook required for this course is *The Economy of Nature*(2001) by Robert E. Ricklefs

Course objectives

The goal of this course is to provide students with an overview of ecology from the level of the individual organism to populations, communities and ecosystems.

Final Grade

Your final grade will be the mean of four exams that are given during the semester. These means are based on the numerical points of each exam, not on the letter grade of each exam. Each exam will be worth 100 points. All students must take all exams and none of the exam grades are dropped

Missed exams

There will be no make-up examinations. If you miss one of the mid-term examinations due to an excused emergency absence, your final grade will be based on the total points from the remaining exams. If you miss an examination due to an emergency (illness or serious injury or a death in your immediate family), you must submit, in writing, your request for an excused absence. Verbal communication with one of the instructors is not sufficient. Please use the following guidelines when preparing your request:

1. Your written request for an excused absence must indicate your name, the nature of the emergency, and the date of the examination that you missed.

2. Your request must be detailed, typed, and signed by you. This request must be given directly to either Dr. Relyea or Dr. Carson no later than one week after the missed exam.

3. If you miss an exam due to a medical condition, you must include documentation. At the minimum, you must submit a signed letter from your physician.

Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in a zero recorded for the missed exam. No one will be excused from more than one examination. If you miss more than one examination you should discuss possible options available to you with your advisor or the CAS Dean's Office.

Late arrivals to exams will be given the exam during the time that remains for the designated examination period. Students who miss exams due to emergencies should pursue the G grade option (an incomplete) as detailed below.

Exam regrades

A student may request that the instructors regrade any portion of their graded examinations. The student must type out an explanation detailing the reasons for requesting a regrade. This request must be submitted to Dr. Relyea or Dr. Carson within one week from the date that the graded examinations are returned to the class. You are advised to consult the answer key and your text book prior to submitting your request.

E-mail

E-mail will not be used routinely in this class for communication

G Grades

Students who wish to petition for a G grade (an incomplete) must submit to either Dr. Relyea or Dr. Carson, in writing, a specific request for this grade change and you must document your reason(s). You will be required to make arrangements with the instructors for the specific tasks you must complete to remove the G grade. Remember that G grades, according to CAS guidelines, are to be given only when students who have been attending a course and have been making regular progress are prevented by circumstances beyond their control from completing the course after it is too late to withdraw (University of Pittsburgh Undergraduate Bulletin, 1999-2002, p. 29).

Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability that requires special testing accommodations or other classroom modifications, you should notify one of the instructors and the Office of Disability Resources and Services. You may be asked to provide documentation of your disability to determine the appropriateness of accommodations. To notify Disability Resources and Services, call 648-7890 (Voice or TDD) to schedule an appointment. The office is located in 216 William Pitt Union.

***Academic
Integrity***

Students in this course are expected to comply with the University of Pittsburgh's Policy on Academic Integrity: Student Obligations. Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated at the instructor level, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity. This may include, but is not limited to, the confiscation of the examination of any individual suspected of violating University Policy. Furthermore, no student may bring any unauthorized materials to an examination, such as dictionaries or a programmable calculator when stored with information specific to the material covered in this course.

Course Schedule Biosc 0370 – Fall 2002

Date	Topic	Chapter	Faculty
Aug 27	Course overview and an introduction to ecology	1	Dr. Relyea
Aug 29	The Physical Environment	2	Dr. Relyea
Sept 3	Adaptation to aquatic and terrestrial environments	3	Dr. Relyea
Sept 5	Variations in the physical environment	4	Dr. Relyea
Sept 10	Biological communities: the biome concept	5	Dr. Relyea
Sept 12	Adaptation to life in varying environments	9	Dr. Relyea
Sept 17	Life histories and evolutionary fitness	10	Dr. Relyea
Sept 19	First Exam		
Sept 24	Sex and evolution	11	Dr. Relyea
Sept 26	Family, society, and evolution	12	Dr. Relyea
Oct 1	Population structures	13	Dr. Relyea
Oct 3	Population growth and regulation	14	Dr. Relyea
Oct 8	Temporal and spatial dynamics of populations	15	Dr. Relyea
Oct 10	Population genetics and evolution	16	Dr. Relyea
Oct 15	Second Exam		
Oct 17	Video: The Private Life of Plants	No Chapter	Dr. Carson
Oct 22	Competition*	19	Dr. Carson
Oct 24	Competition*	19	Dr. Carson
Oct 29	Predation, Herbivory, and Mutualism*	17, 18, 20	Dr. Carson
Oct. 31	Predation, Herbivory, and Mutualism*	17, 18, 20	Dr. Carson
Nov 5	Community Structure*	21	Dr. Carson
Nov. 7	Community Development/ Succession*	22	Dr. Carson
Nov 12	Third Exam		
Nov 14	Biodiversity	23	Dr. Carson
Nov 19	History and Biogeography	24	Dr. Carson
Nov 21	Extinction and Conservation	25	Dr. Carson
Nov 26	Thanksgiving Day – No class		
Nov 28	Ecosystem Ecology	6, 7, 8	Dr. Carson
Dec 3	Applied ecology I: Invasive species	No chapter	Dr. Carson
Dec 5	Applied ecology II. Combating forest decline	No chapter	Dr. Carson

* For these lectures, Dr. Carson will use some material from two additional textbooks that will be on reserve in the Langley Library. These texts are *Community Ecology* by Peter Morin and *Ecology* by Manuel Molles. Relevant sections and page numbers will be provided in lecture.

**Final Exam Wednesday, December 11
2:00 - 3:50PM, A224 Langley Hall**