

BIOSC 1220: WETLANDS ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT

May 12- May 30 2008

Instructor: Dr. Nancy Schoeppner
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phone: 814-282-8599
Office hours: 7-8 pm Tues. and Thurs. and by appointment

Class time: 9 am – 5 pm Monday-Friday

Text: Wetlands by Mitsch and Gosselink 4th Edition

Grading: Grades will be based on participation in class discussion and field projects, a research project, and a final exam. The final exam will be a take home exam that will be handed out on 3/29 and will be due by 5pm on 3/30. All material will be distributed and submitted for grading via email.

Grading breakdown

Class participation: 40%
Small group field projects: 20%
Class field projects: 20%
Final Exam: 20%

Grade scale

A = 100 – 90%
B = 89 – 80%
C = 79 – 70%
D = 69 – 60%
F = Below 60%

Course Description: Wetlands are an important transitional habitat from terrestrial to aquatic systems. They provide services that are critical to the health and functioning of the ecosystem, but you will see that in many ways wetlands defy easy definition. In this class we will investigate the different types of wetlands, the properties that define wetlands, the benefits they supply to the ecosystem and society, and the history and present status of ecosystem management.

Objectives: To gain an understanding of wetland ecology and function while developing critical thinking and effective communication skills. We will be using an inquiry-based format where topics are explored through discussion of ideas, small group research, student presentation of topics, and reading from the assigned text and the primary literature.

Attendance: The inquiry based format of this class makes attendance critical. You will receive one absence with no penalty. If you miss more than one class you will not earn the participation points for the day. Because it is not a lecture style class there will be no (or few) formal notes to get from class mates and catching up on the material covered will be hard. If you miss class for an excused absence, you can make up the participation points for that class by attending an office hours discussion section.

Small group field projects: In the first few days of class you will be expected to come to me with a proposal for a field project that you would like to conduct in a wetland in the Pymatuning Area. The project can deal with any aspect of Wetland Ecology and Management but you must receive approval before you begin. You will be given class time to work on your projects but you will likely need to spend additional time outside of class working on your project. You will work on the projects in small groups and will give a 20 - 30 min. presentation on your project on the final Thursday of class (3/29). Each presentation should include:

- 1) An introduction that provides information about why your project is important to wetland ecology, the hypothesis you are testing and your predictions
- 2) Methods that describe how you carried out the study.
- 3) Results that show what you found including statistical analysis of your data.
- 4) Discussion that addresses your results compare to your predictions and to other similar work that has been done in the past.