

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Alison Hale  
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**UTA:** Mia Wavrek  
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**OFFICE HOURS:** HALE: Tuesdays and Thursdays 4-5 p.m.; or by appointment; WAVREK: Mondays and Wednesdays 2-3 p.m.; or by appointment on Fridays

**LECTURES:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:00 - 7:15 p.m., A224 Langley Hall

**COURSE OVERVIEW:** This course will provide students with an overview of ecology from the level of the individual organism to populations, communities and ecosystems.

**REQUIRED TEXT:** Ecology: The Economy of Nature, **6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> edition.**  
6<sup>th</sup> edition by R. Ricklefs in 2008; 7<sup>th</sup> edition by R. Ricklefs and R. Relyea in 2014.

**OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS:** i>Clicker, scientific or graphing calculator

**GRADED WORK:** Your grade in this course will be based on the following:

**1. i>Clicker Questions:** Student progress will be assessed in-class using a student response system (i>Clickers) to work through thought exercises. For each question, students will be given 2 points for participating, and an additional ½ point for answering correctly. i>Clickers will be used beginning the second day of class, but will not count towards the course grade until after the Add/Drop period ends on September 5<sup>th</sup>. On average, 5 i>Clicker points will available in each lecture, with a guaranteed 4 points for each student who answers all i>Clicker questions. At the end of the term, these points will constitute the “In-Class Participation” portion of the grade. i>Clicker points will be scaled to a total of 90 possible points out of 100.

Thus, over the course of the semester, more i>Clicker points will be available than are required to achieve a full score for this aspect of grading, so points lost to the occasional low battery, i>Clicker failure or other technical difficulty should not impact a student’s grade in the course. Students who forget their i>Clicker for a given class will not be eligible for that day’s i>Clicker points even if they can answer the questions correctly in person or in writing.

It is the student’s responsibility to make sure that their i>Clicker is registered, working correctly, and has sufficient battery power to last through the class. If a student loses or breaks their i>clicker remote, it is the student’s responsibility to replace and register it before the next class. If this happens, please email the instructor with the new Remote ID.

**TO REGISTER YOUR i>CLICKER:** Go to <http://www1.iclicker.com/register-an-iclicker>. Complete the fields with your first name, last name, student ID, and remote ID. Your student ID should be your Pitt User ID (part of your email address that precedes @pitt.edu). Do not use your PeopleSoft or Pitt Card ID number when you register. Check to make sure that your i>Clicker is properly registered and working by checking that points are being recorded on Courseweb. You should be able to see these points prior to Add/Drop, although they will not count until afterwards.

PUT YOUR NAME ON YOUR i>CLICKER: These remotes can be easy to confuse with those other students.

DO NOT GIVE YOUR i>CLICKER TO A FRIEND: Cheating with i>Clickers will not be tolerated. Any student caught entering answers with multiple i>Clickers will lose their i>Clicker and all associated i>Clicker points for the remainder of the term, as will the students who own the other i>Clickers. In addition, all students involved will be reported to the Dean's office for a violation of academic integrity.

**2. WRITING ASSIGNMENT:** To increase your awareness of current topics in ecological research, you will attend either one ecology-related talk OR visit two ecology-related posters at Science 2014 and write a summary of the talk and/or posters. The summary must include the following:

1. The researcher's name and title of the talk/posters
2. The hypothesis being tested or questions addressed by the research
3. The approach taken by the researcher to test the hypothesis
4. The results and interpretation of the work presented
5. One question you asked (or would like to have asked) the presenter about their research
6. How the subject of the talk/posters was relevant to topics covered in class

The summary must be typed and between 1-2 pages. The writing assignment is worth 20 points.

**3. EXAMINATIONS:** There will be 3 mid-term examinations during the semester, each worth 100 points. The exam dates are given on the schedule. Exams will include terms, definitions, interpretation of tables and graphs, analytical problems, and short answer. The questions will be based primarily on the material covered in the lectures but will include material in selected readings. You may miss an exam only under exceptional circumstances of illness, severe personal trauma, or (rarely) University business, and only if you bring a signed note from a doctor (illness), parent (personal trauma), or a University official (University business) within one week of the exam. If you miss one exam with a valid excuse, your final grade will be based on your average on the other three exams, i>Clicker, and discussion grades. If you miss more than one exam with a valid excuse, you must meet with the instructors to consider dropping the course and other options. If you miss an exam without a valid excuse, you will receive a score of "0" on the exam. There are no make-up exams.

**4. FINAL EXAMINATION:** The final exam, like the 3 mid-term exams, will test proficiency with new material since the previous exam. Because I hope you will emerge with a synthesis of material from throughout the course, questions will also make use of material covered on all previous exam(s). The final exam date is on the schedule.

**GRADING:** Relative weight of each portion of graded work:

i>Clicker "In-Class Participation"	90 points
Writing Assignment	20 points
Mid-term Exams	300 points
Final Exam	100 points
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>510 points</b>

For example, if you earn 455 out of 510 points during the term, your percentage is 89%. During the term you can estimate your performance based on the following scale: percentages in the 90's = A range; 80's = B range; 70's = C range; 60's = D range; 50's or below = F.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**E-MAIL COMMUNICATION POLICY:** I will rely on e-mail for communication with you. Each student is issued a University e-mail address ([username@pitt.edu](mailto:username@pitt.edu)) upon admittance. This e-mail address is the only one we will use for communication with you. You are expected to read e-mail sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to our communications in a timely manner does not absolve you from knowing and complying with the content of the communications. The University provides an e-mail forwarding service that allows students to read their e-mail via other service providers (e.g., Gmail). If you choose to forward your e-mail from your pitt.edu address to another address you do so at your own risk. If e-mail is lost as a result of forwarding, it does not absolve you from responding to official communications sent to your University e-mail address. To forward e-mail sent to your University account, go to <http://accounts.pitt.edu> log in to your account, click on Edit Forwarding Addresses, and follow the instructions on the page. Be sure to log out of your account when you have finished. (For all University E-mail Communication Policies, go to <http://www.cfo.pitt.edu/policies/policy/09/09-10-01.html>.)

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY:** Cheating/plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students suspected of violating the University of Pittsburgh Policy on Academic Integrity, noted below, will be required to participate in the outlined procedural process as initiated by the instructor. A minimum sanction of a zero score for the exam or discussion questions will be imposed. You may not use unauthorized materials during an exam, including notes, dictionaries, pagers, telephones, PDAs, and any device that can connect to the internet. You must submit for grading only material that is written exclusively in your own words and written or drawn in your own handwriting. Violation of the Academic Integrity Code requires the instructor to submit an Academic Integrity Violation Report to the Dean's Office. See: <http://www.as.pitt.edu/faculty/policy/integrity.html>.

**DISABILITY SERVICES:** If you have a disability for which you are, or may be, requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Office of Disability Resources and Services, 216 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890/412-383-7355 (FTY), as early as possible in the term. Disability Resources and Services will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

MO	DAY	SESSN	LEC	TOPIC	6th EDITION READINGS	7th EDITION READINGS
AUG	26	1	1	Introduction to Ecology	Chapter 1	Chapter 1
	28	2	2	Evolution	Chapter 6: 113-124	Chapter 7: 162-176
SEPT	2	3	3	The Physical Environment	Chapter 4	Chapter 5
	4	4	4	Climate Change	Primary Literature	Primary Literature
	9	5	5	Adaptation to the Physical Environment: Part 1	Chapters 2 and 3	Chapter 2 and 3
	11	6	6	Adaptation to the Physical Environment: Part 2	Chapter 6: 124-130	Chapter 4
	16	7	E1	<b>Exam 1</b>		
	18	8	7	Life History and Reproductive Strategies	Chapters 7 and 8	Chapters 8 and 9
	23	9	8	Social evolution	Chapter 9	Chapter 10
	25	10	9	Speciation	See 7th edition	Chapter 7: 176-183
	30	11	10	Population Distributions	Chapter 10	Chapter 11
OCT	2	12	WA	<b>NO CLASS:</b> Attend Science 2014 and do Writing Assignment		
	7	13	11	Modeling Population Growth	Chapter 11	Chapter 12
	9	14	12	Population Dynamics over Space and Time	Chapter 12	Chapter 13
	14			<b>NO CLASS</b>		
	16	15	E2	<b>Exam 2</b>		
	21	16	13	Competition: Part 1	Chapter 16	Chapter 16
	23	17	14	Competition: Part 2	Chapter 16	Chapter 16
	28	18	15	Predation and Herbivory	Chapter 15: 302-308; 309-315; 318-322	Chapter 14
	30	19	16	Mutualism	See 7th edition	Chapter 17
NOV	4	20	V	Video: The Private Life of Plants		
	6	21	17	Parasitism and Infectious Disease	Chapter 15: 308-309; 315-317	Chapter 15
	11	22	E3	<b>Exam 3</b>		
	13	23	18	Community Structure	Chapter 18	Chapter 18
	18	24	19	Community Succession	Chapter 19	Chapter 19
	20	25	20	Biodiversity: Patterns and Predictions	Chapter 20	Chapter 22
	25	26	21	Ecosystem Ecology	Chapters 22 and 23	Chapters 20 and 21
	27			<b>NO CLASS: HAPPY THANKSGIVING!</b>		
DEC	2	27	22	Ecological Applications I: Invasion Biology	Primary Literature	Primary Literature
	4	28	23	Ecological Applications II: Rewilding North America	Primary Literature	Primary Literature
	9	29		Review		
	11	30	F	<b>Final Exam, 6:00-7:15PM in A224 Langley Hall</b>		