

BIOL 3295 – Population and Evolutionary Ecology

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Amy Hurford

Office: SN-1093 (x8301)

Email: Please email me via Brightspace

Office hours: M 9-11am

Course Information

Lecture

TR 12.00-12.50pm

F 1-1.50pm

SN-2067

Lab

W 2-5pm

SN-4117, 4116F and 3000

Course description: *Population and Evolutionary Ecology* is an introduction to the theory and principles of evolutionary ecology and population dynamics. Pre-requisites: BIOL 2600; at least one of BIOL 2010, 2122 or 2210.

Course format:

Prior to lecture. Readings are to be completed before some lectures (see *1.1 Lecture Schedule* and *1.3 Readings* for more details).

Lecture. There are 3 x 50 minute lectures each week. Lectures will be a combination of *me* lecturing and *you* problem solving, running simulations, and analyzing data to understand how to answer research questions in population and evolutionary ecology.

- Plan to bring a laptop computer with the recommended software installed (see *1.5 Software* for installation instructions).

Labs. There are 8 x 3 hour labs. See *1.2 Lab Schedule*.

Course expectations: Any students that are disruptive, violating university policies, or acting in a potentially unsafe way will be warned and asked to leave.

Learning goals

- Understand key concepts
- Perform calculations
- Know how to gain knowledge and assess information sources
- Gain some experience running simulations and coding

Required Text and Readings

- I will conduct a computing resources survey on the first day of class. Please notify me if you have limited access to computing resources.
- All readings are available online via the links in *1.3 Readings*, or can be accessed via the library website.

- Brightspace – will be used: a) to make announcements (in addition to in class); b) for class-related emails; c) to disseminate grades; d) for students to post questions on the readings.
- Github – Lecture slides, Labs, and other resources will be available to download at <https://github.com/ahurford/BIOL-3295>

Method of Evaluation

- Assignments 20%
- Midterm (take home) 20%
- Labs 20%
- Final exam 40%

Late assignments, labs, and missed midterms, and final exams will be accommodated as described by University Regulation 6.7.3 and 6.7.5 (see <https://www.mun.ca/regoff/calendar/sectionNo=REGS-0474> for Regulations). The Final exam will cover all Lecture material and readings, but not Labs. Specific regulations governing final examinations are described by University Regulation 6.8. Lecture participation is highly recommended and practice problems completed during lectures may appear on Assignments.

1.1 Lecture schedule

Week 1 Fri Sept 6	What is a population and why does it matter?
Week 2 Tues Sept 10	What is evolutionary ecology? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Björklund, 2019. Estimating population size <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sacchi et al., 2002. (Skalski et al., 2005. 8.1.2 Basic Sampling Methods and 8.2 Description of Common Indices. p363-394 – Read only if you are interested in additional details)
Week 3 Tues Sept 17	Discrete and continuous time population dynamics Assignment 1 set Exponential/geometric growth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vandermeer and Goldberg, 2013. p1-8 (beginning after the Exercises on p4)
Week 4 Tues Sept 24	Density dependence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vandermeer and Goldberg, 2013. The Logistic Equation. p13-17 • Vandermeer and Goldberg, 2013. Density dependence in discrete time models. p28-29 Assignment 1 due
Week 5 Tues Oct 1	Evolution in low- and high-density populations Assignment 2 set <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Zombie ideas in ecology,” 2011 • Pianka, 1970 • Travis et al., 2013
Week 6 Tues Oct 8	Age structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vandermeer and Goldberg, 2013. Elementary Age Structured Projection Matrices. p30-39

	Stage structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vandermeer and Goldberg, 2013. Non-Age Structure: Stage projection models. p39-47 Kendall et al., 2019 <p style="text-align: right;">Assignment 2 due MIDTERM AVAILABLE</p>
Midterm break Week 7 Thurs Oct 17	Evolution of life history strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vandermeer and Goldberg, 2013. Life History Analysis. p63-72
Week 8 Tues Oct 22	Evolution of life history strategies Structured populations - space <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vandermeer and Goldberg, 2013. Metapopulations. p142-151
Week 9 Tues Oct 29*	Structured populations – space <p style="text-align: right;">MIDTERM DUE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andow et al., 1990 Evolution in spatially structured populations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lion and Baalen, 2008
Week 10 Tues Nov 5	Population dynamics in seasonal environments <p style="text-align: right;">Assignment 3 set</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saunders et al., 2019 Population dynamics in a warming world <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walsh et al., 2019 Baltar et al., 2019
Week 11 Tues Nov 12	Evolution in a warming world <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edelaar and Bolnick, 2019 <p style="text-align: right;">Assignment 3 due</p>
Week 12 Tues Nov 19	Stochastic population dynamics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 13: Probabilistic Models https://www.zoology.ubc.ca/biomath/ Evolution in fluctuating environments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sæther and Engen, 2015
Week 13 Tues Nov 26	Big questions in evolutionary ecology Reading TBD

*Oct 30 is the last day to drop fall semester courses without academic prejudice.

1.2 Lab schedule

- For labs you should, bring your own laptop computer with software installed to work on (recommended; see *1.4 Software*).
- On Sept 16, Lab 2a will require, walking to and through bush in Pippy Park. Please dress appropriately.
- You will need a Github account to contribute data and code for Labs 5 and 7. (see *1.4 Software*)

Sept 11	Lab 1: Getting started in R/Duck data collection	R/RStudio
Sept 18	Lab 2a: Pippy park – data collection*	–

Sept 25	Lab 3: Solving population models	R/RStudio
Oct 2	Lab 4: Testing for density dependence	R/RStudio
Oct 9	Lab 5: Stage structure	R/RStudio
Oct 23	Lab 6: Life history evolution	R/RStudio; Github
Oct 30	Lab 7: Spatial and stochastic population dynamics	R/RStudio; Netlogo
Nov 13	Lab 8: Ducks on Burton's pond	R/RStudio; ImageJ

1.3 Readings

- All of the readings are available as online resources available from the MUN library website. The journal articles should be accessible via the links, but you might also be able to access them via *Web of Science* from the library website.
- See *1.1 Lecture Schedule* for the timing of the readings and see *1.4 References* for full bibliographic information.
- Prior to the day that a reading is due, you should post any questions or comments you have on the reading to the *Discussion* on BrightSpace. If you are having trouble viewing any of the required readings, please contact myself, or a teaching assistant.
- Please consult “*How to Read a Scientific Paper*” (2014) for the recommended approach to ‘reading’ journal articles. Steps 1,2, and 4 are good advice, but step 3 may not be relevant for some readings.
- Readings from textbooks (i.e., Vandermeer and Goldberg, 2013) can be read linearly (from beginning to end).

1.4 References (It is recommended to cut and paste links into a web browser to access journal articles; alternatively follow the instructions from ‘Guide for accessing readings.docx’)

- Andow, D.A., Kareiva, P.M., Levin, S.A., Okubo, A., 1990. Spread of invading organisms. *Landsc. Ecol.* 4, 177–188. <https://doi.org/10.1007/BF00132860>
- Baltar, F., Bayer, B., Bednarsek, N., Deppeler, S., Escribano, R., Gonzalez, C.E., Hansman, R.L., Mishra, R.K., Moran, M.A., Repeta, D.J., Robinson, C., Sintes, E., Tamburini, C., Valentin, L.E., Herndl, G.J., 2019. Towards Integrating Evolution, Metabolism, and Climate Change Studies of Marine Ecosystems. *Trends Ecol. Evol.* 0. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tree.2019.07.003>
- Björklund, M., 2019. Lamarck, the Father of Evolutionary Ecology? *Trends Ecol. Evol.* S0169534719301909. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tree.2019.06.010>
- Edelaar, P., Bolnick, D.I., 2019. Appreciating the Multiple Processes Increasing Individual or Population Fitness. *Trends Ecol. Evol.* 34, 435–446. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tree.2019.02.001>
- How to Read a Scientific Paper [WWW Document], 2014. . Research4Life. URL <https://www.research4life.org/blog/how-to-read-a-scientific-paper/> (accessed 9.3.19).
- Kendall, B.E., Fujiwara, M., Diaz-Lopez, J., Schneider, S., Voigt, J., Wiesner, S., 2019. Persistent problems in the construction of matrix population models. *Ecol. Model.* 406, 33–43. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolmodel.2019.03.011>
- Lion, S., Baalen, M. van, 2008. Self-structuring in spatial evolutionary ecology. *Ecol. Lett.* 11, 277–295. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1461-0248.2007.01132.x>
- Pianka, E.R., 1970. On r- and K-Selection. *Am. Nat.* 104, 592–597.
- Sacchi, R., Gentili, A., Razzetti, E., Barbieri, F., 2002. Effects of building features on density and flock distribution of feral pigeons *Columba livia* var. *domestica* in an urban environment. *Can. J. Zool.* 80, 48–54. <https://doi.org/10.1139/z01-202>

- Sæther, B.-E., Engen, S., 2015. The concept of fitness in fluctuating environments. *Trends Ecol. Evol.* 30, 273–281. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tree.2015.03.007>
- Saunders, S.P., Ries, L., Neupane, N., Ramírez, M.I., García-Serrano, E., Rendón-Salinas, E., Zipkin, E.F., 2019. Multiscale seasonal factors drive the size of winter monarch colonies. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 116, 8609–8614. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1805114116>
- Skalski, J.R., Ryding, K.E., Millspaugh, J.J., Millspaugh, J., 2005. *Wildlife Demography: Analysis of Sex, Age, and Count Data*. Elsevier Science & Technology, Burlington, UNITED STATES. <https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.qe2a-proxy.mun.ca/lib/mun/detail.action?docID=269552>
- Travis, J., Leips, J., Rodd, F.H., Reznick, S.E.D.N., 2013. Evolution in Population Parameters: Density-Dependent Selection or Density-Dependent Fitness? *Am. Nat.* 181, S9–S20. <https://doi.org/10.1086/669970>
- Vandermeer, J.H., Goldberg, D.E., 2013. *Population Ecology: First Principles (Second Edition)*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, UNITED STATES.
- Walsh, B.S., Parratt, S.R., Hoffmann, A.A., Atkinson, D., Snook, R.R., Bretman, A., Price, T.A.R., 2019. The Impact of Climate Change on Fertility. *Trends Ecol. Evol.* 34, 249–259. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tree.2018.12.002>
- Zombie ideas in ecology: r and K selection, 2011. Oikos Blog. URL <https://oikosjournal.wordpress.com/2011/06/29/zombie-ideas-in-ecology-r-and-k-selection/> (accessed 8.28.19).

1.5 Software

The following computing resources will be used during the course. Below are the links to download these software.

R: <https://www.r-project.org/>

RStudio: <https://www.rstudio.com/products/rstudio/#Desktop>

Github: <https://github.com/join>

Github Desktop: <https://help.github.com/en/desktop/getting-started-with-github-desktop/installing-github-desktop>

Netlogo: <https://ccl.northwestern.edu/netlogo/>

ImageJ: <https://imagej.nih.gov/ij/download.html>

Additional Policies

Accommodation of students with disabilities

Memorial University of Newfoundland is committed to supporting inclusive education based on the principles of equity, accessibility and collaboration. Accommodations are provided within the scope of the University Policies for the Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (www.mun.ca/policy/site/policy.php?id=239). Students who may need an academic accommodation are asked to initiate the request with the Glenn Roy Blundon Centre at the earliest opportunity (www.mun.ca/blundon).

Academic misconduct

Students are expected to adhere to those principles, which constitute proper academic conduct. A student has the responsibility to know which actions, as described under Academic Offences in the University Regulations, could be construed as dishonest or improper. Students found guilty of an academic offence may be subject to a number of penalties commensurate with the offence including reprimand, reduction of grade, probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. For more information regarding this policy, students should refer to University Regulation 6.12.

Equity and Diversity

A safe learning environment will be provided for all students regardless of race, colour, nationality, ethnic origin, social origin, religious creed, religion, age, disability, disfigurement, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, family status, source of income or political opinion.

You should not photograph or record myself, teaching assistants, or other students in the class without first obtaining permission. Accommodation will be made for students with special needs.

The sound should be turned off on phones and computers during class.

Additional Supports

Resources for additional support can be found at:

- www.mun.ca/currentstudents/student/
- <https://munsu.ca/resource-centres/>