L. Athena Hamilton  
Professor Lisa Castle & Professor Naupaka Zimmerman

Environmental Studies 460

20 August 2025

1. **What name would you like us to use for you?** 
   1. My name is Athena.
2. **What pronouns?**
   1. I use He/Him or She/Her pronouns. Feel free to pick one and stick with it, or mix it up from time to time. I’m not terribly picky.
3. **What's the best contact number to use if we need to reach you on short notice? (Or if you need to reach us!)**
   1. (816) 556-6887
4. **What prior experience have you had with ecology or field work?**
   1. Last semester I took Dr. Sike’s Biology of Fungi course which had a small amount of field work and plenty of fungal ecology. I also briefly worked for the St. Louis County Department of Public Health under Vector Borne Disease Prevention (previously Control) and did a small amount of field work with pesticides.
5. **What fascinates you? (pick a thing or two and share a bit of the fascination)**
   1. I enjoy anything macabre. Disease, decomposition, vectors, etc. Fungi have been a particular fascination of mine as of late, I find their existence utterly captivating. It perplexes me how little effort we put into studying them considering they are a unique kingdom.
6. **Is there anything else you would like us to know about you before the course starts? Please include any concerns you have about being outdoors and completing academically rigorous work.**
   1. I have Hypermobile Ehlers-Danlos syndrome and am therefore physically disabled. It can be difficult for me to ascend large quantities of stairs or steep inclines, stand for long periods of time, and extraordinarily difficult to tolerate heat. I do have compression gear to assist with my joint hyperextension, but I often have to stop and rest before I can continue moving, and sitting for presentations is preferred.
   2. I am miscellaneously mentally ill which can make class difficult for me, especially interacting with others and maintaining motivation. While I do aim to be a good student, I have many bad days. Additionally, clear instruction is required for me to be able to complete assignments and I will likely ask many questions.
   3. I also do not drive. Should we have to travel off campus, I will be unable to do so without vehicle accommodation.