COURSE SYLLABUS
BIOL 240: GENERAL ECOLOGY

Class Time and Location:	Lecture:
	Lecture: Every week: Mon, Wed, Friday (except on holidays or as announced)
	12:00PM-12:50PM Rm: 08-A300
Course Mode:	In-person

Instructor Information

Instructor:	Paul Shipman, PhD, Associate Professor
Contact Information:	Phone: 585-475-4361
	Email: passbi@rit.edu
Contact Policy and Preferences:	Office location/Hours: Rm 08-A354/M,W,F 10:00am-11:50am Email is my preferred method of communication and every effort will be made to reply within 24 hours.
Online Course Material/ Course:	All course materials will be available through MyCourses and Achieve Learning Systems.

Course Description

Catalog Description

This course is an introduction to population, community and ecosystem ecology, stressing the dynamic interrelationships of plant and animal communities with their environments. The course includes such ecological concepts as energy flow and trophic levels in natural communities, population and community dynamics, biogeography and ecosystem ecology.

Course Overview

The goals of the class and lab are to teach you the knowledge and techniques that ecologists use to build a scientific understanding of how organisms in ecosystems interact with each other and the environment around them. Written communication as it relates to scientific research will be a key focus

of this course.

In this class you will learn the following skills:

- Observing ecological systems
- Developing hypotheses to explain ecological phenomena you observe
- Design an experiment to test these hypotheses
- Appropriate field techniques needed to conduct ecological studies
- Statistical methods to analyze data from ecological studies
- How to write scientific papers to present the results of ecological studies
- How to write a research proposal for ecological studies

Course Materials

Required Texts and Resources	-Textbook and Acheive Learning system – Accessed and purchased through MyCourses
Technology requirements:	- Acheive Learning readings and assignments will require you to have access to a computer with internet access. - Microsoft Word and Excel -Freeware statistical software - TBA

Course Schedule

Lecture: Lectures will be online, with weekly assignments and materials posted on Mondays. This will be when new ecology concepts will be delivered and reviewed.

Lab: You must attend your laboratory section every other week as assigned on SIS, or unless otherwise instructed. In lab you will learn the techniques ecologists use to design and implement their studies.

General Grading/ Evaluation Guidelines

Lecture and lab grades are combined into one grade…

Achieve assignments and quizzes 50%

Online Mid-term and Final Exam 10%

Laboratory Grade 40%

Thomas H. Gosnell School Of Life Sciences
College of Science

Grade Scale

Based on the 100% total listed above, letter grades will be assigned as follows:

A : 90 pts or above	A- : 86-89	B+ : 83-85	B : 80-82	B- : 76-79
C+ : 73-75	C: 70-72	C- : 66-69	D : 60-65	F: below 65 pts.

Late Work

Late work will not be accepted except under exceptional circumstances. The mycourses calendar will be kept up to date and will be an important resource for managing due dates.

Attendance and Participation

Attending and active participating in lectures, writing workshops and lab are expected. While this class does not have a specific grade for attendance and participation the course is designed to assess this in other ways.

It is particularly important for you to be on time for lab. We will head into the field promptly after any introductory discussion.

Expectations

Student Expectations

The following is expected of all students:

- full participation in course and lab activities including class discussion and collaborative work
- professional written and oral communication
- use of mycourses to access and submit all assignments
- actively seek help from all available resources
- take academic and social risks by asking questions and sharing ideas
- honest and authentic completion of work to success

Instructor Expectations

Students can expect the following from the instructor and teaching assistants

- the creation of an environment that respects, accepts and values the contribution of every student
- course activities and material that are challenging but manageable

- an effort to empower students as learners and individuals
- guidance and assistance that leads

Course Policies

Technology in the classroom and laboratory

Cell phones / laptops and other electronics are powerful tools for learning and research. They may be used in class if it furthers educational goals. Otherwise their use is prohibited and we will rely on your good judgement to keep our class environment free from distraction.

Academic Integrity Statement

It is expected that students will follow RIT's academic integrity policy and refrain from cheating, duplicate submission or plagiarism. Students are also expected to follow RIT's honor code. Your commitment to academic and personal integrity is essential and failure to meet the highest of expectations will be addressed in accordance with the University's policies.
The RIT Honor Code states: Integrity and strong moral character are valued and expected within and outside of the RIT community. As members of the RIT campus community, including students, trustees, faculty, staff, and administrators, we will:

- Demonstrate civility, respect, decency and sensitivity towards our fellow members of the RIT community, and recognize that all individuals at this university are part of the larger RIT family, and as such are entitled to that support and mutual respect which they deserve.
- Conduct ourselves with the highest standards of moral and ethical behavior. Such behavior includes taking responsibility for our own personal choices, decisions and academic and professional work.
- Affirm through the daily demonstration of these ideals that RIT is a university devoted to the pursuit of knowledge and a free exchange of ideas in an open and respectful climate.

Statement on Reasonable Accommodations

RIT is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. If you would like to request accommodations such as special seating or testing modifications due to a disability, please contact the Disability Services Office. It is located in the Student Alumni Union, Room 1150; the Web site is www.rit.edu/dso. After you receive accommodation approval, it is imperative that you see me during office hours so that we can work out whatever arrangement is necessary.

Other Elements

Changes to the syllabus

I have provided this syllabus as guide to our course. However, as instructor, I reserve the right to modify this document during the semester, if necessary, to ensure that we achieve course learning objectives. You will receive advance notice of any changes to the syllabus through myCourses/email.

RIT Writing Center - https:// wallacecenter.rit.edu/ services/writing-commons

The British Ecological Society Short Guide to Scientific Writing

https:/ / besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/ hub/ journal/ 13652745/ journal-resources/ guide-to-scientific-writing