

Forest Ecology

Course Objectives:

The goal of this course is for students to develop a basic understanding in ecology with an emphasis on forest structure and management. In this course, we will cover topics such as ecosystem dynamics, abiotic and biotic factors, trophic cascades, human impact and climate change, and population dynamics. At the end of this course, I expect students to have mastered the basic ecological models (e.g. the exponential population growth model) and to feel comfortable collecting data in the field.

The overall aim of this course is for students to learn how to design an ecological study in forest systems, feel confident in the field using various basics tools and to understand terrestrial ecosystem processes and how they change under environmental and biotic changes. Students will work on a semester long project and will be required to submit a paper and present results at the end of the course.

We will meet every Monday and Wednesday from 11:30a - 1:00p. Lab sessions will be on Fridays from 1:00p-3:00p

Resources:

- Gotelli, N.J. *A Primer of Ecology*. 2008. Sinauer Associates, Inc., Sunderland, MA (ECO)
- Chapin III, F.S., Matson, P.A., and Vitousek, P.M. *Principles of Terrestrial Ecosystem Ecology*. 2011. Springer Science+Business Media, New York, NY. (CMV) (**There are many copies available at the library.**)

Additional Reading: Additional primary literature articles will be available for students on the website and are listed in the ‘*Reading*’ column of the schedule below. Full citations are also listed.

Field/Lab Sessions: Each week, students will have a lab session for two hours to learn basic ecology fieldwork and labwork. The aim is to provide students with a firm foundation in preparing for fieldwork, basic tool use, and greenhouse and growth chamber use. Students will need to first complete the lab safety module before the first lab session in order to participate. The module can be found on the course website.

Schedule:

Class	Topic	Reading
M: 10 Sept	Intro to Forest Ecology	CMV: 3-21 & Gilliam (2007)
W: 12 Sept	Forest Management	CMV: 423-446 & Johnson & Curtis (2001)
F: 14 Sept	Lab 1: Preparing for the field	
M: 17 Sept	Thermal & Water Relations	CMV: 93-121 & Arii & Lechowicz (2002)
W: 19 Sept	Soils Properties	CMV: 63-89 & Prentice <i>et al.</i> (1992)
F: 21 Sept	Lab 2: Plant Presses	
M: 24 Sept	Canopy structure & Light	Farrior <i>et al.</i> (2016) & Jiquan Chen (2014)
W: 26 Sept	Succession & Recruitment	ECO: 179-201 & CMV: 351-365
F: 28 Sept	Lab 3: Dichotomous Key - trees	
M: 1 Oct	Trophic Dynamics	CMV: 297-319 & Moore <i>et al.</i> (2004)
W: 3 Oct	Disturbances	CMV: 339-350 & Gu <i>et al.</i> (2008) & Bailey & Whitham (2002)
F: 5 Oct	Lab 4: Dichotomous Key - grass	
M: 8 Oct	Nutrient Cycling	CMV: 229-256 & Sardans <i>et al.</i> (2016)
W: 10 Oct	Carbon Cycles	CMV: 123-155 & Grassi <i>et al.</i> (2017)
F: 12 Oct	Lab 5: Field Surveys	
M: 15 Oct	Dispersal & Seed Predation	Clark <i>et al.</i> (1999) & Smith (1987)
W: 17 Oct	Reproduction & Growth	Primack (1987) & Aizen & Feinsinger (1994)
F: 19 Oct	Lab 6: Seed Collection	
M: 22 Oct	Phenology	Basler & Korner (2014) & Chuine (2010)
W: 24 Oct	Fire Ecology	Whitlock <i>et al.</i> (2003) & Larson & Churchill (2012)
F: 26 Oct	Lab 7: Succession	
M: 29 Oct	Strategies & Adaptations	Poorter & Bongers (2006) & Lindner <i>et al.</i> (2010)
W: 31 Oct	Invasive Species	MacDougall & Turkington (2005) & Stachowicz <i>et al.</i> (2002)
F: 2 Nov	Lab 8: Growth Facilities	
M: 5 Nov	Trees at Extremes	Sass-Klaassen <i>et al.</i> (2016) & Niemelä <i>et al.</i> (1996)
W: 7 Nov	Climate Change Impacts	CMV: 23-59 & 401-421 & Walther <i>et al.</i> (2002)
F: 9 Nov	Lab 9: Phenology	

Class	Topic	Reading
M: 12 Nov	Competition & Herbivory	ECO: 99-123 & Ettinger & HilleRisLambers (2017)
W: 14 Nov	Facilitation & Mutualisms	Booth & Hoeksema (2010) & Jandér <i>et al.</i> (2016)
F: 16 Nov	Lab 10: SLA & DBH	
M & W: 19-23 Nov	Thanksgiving Break!	
M: 26 Nov	Landscape Ecology	CMV: 369-396 & Roxburgh <i>et al.</i> (2004)
W: 28 Nov	Patch Dynamics & Edge Effects	ECO: 155-176 & Forman & Godron (1981)
F: 30 Nov	Lab 11: GPS Mapping	
M: 3 Dec	Diversity & Population Dynamics	ECO: 203-223 & CMV: 321-335
W: 5 Dec	Human Impact & Regeneration	Honnay <i>et al.</i> (2005) & McGill <i>et al.</i> (2006) & Dupouey <i>et al.</i> (2002)
F: 7 Dec	Lab 12: Edge Effects	

Grading Rubric:

Type	Percent of Grade
Participation & Discussion	15
Lab Sessions	15
Midterm	30
Final Exam and Project	40

References

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