

## **ADVANCED FIELD BIOLOGY**

Bio 400/600; Spring 2016

T 2:00-4:00; LSC 439

Prerequisite: Bio 405 or instructor permission

### INSTRUCTORS:

Dr. David Althoff

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### COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Once students have successfully completed this course, they will be better able to: (1) distinguish the major animal and plants groups in Florida ecosystems, (2) plan and implement surveys and experiments in the field, (3) prepare and deliver oral presentations on a scientific research project, and (4) take accurate field notes. Graduate students will also learn how to write a paper for an ecological journal.

### TOPIC SCHEDULE

Jan 19	Introduction, Discussion of field projects, trip planning
Jan 26	Readings—Natural History—Greene vs. Arnold
Feb 2	Readings—Peninsula Effect on Herps; Gopher Tortoise Fire Ecology
Feb 9	Grads to Bio 405; Undergrads to discuss research plans
Feb 16	Readings—Lichen Specificity; Allelopathy by Rosemary
Feb 23	Readings—Palmetto Competition; Palmetto visitors
Mar 1	Readings—Wolf Spiders; Whip Scorpions
Mar 8	Attend Proposal Presentations for Bio 405, <b><i>Official trip meeting - attendance mandatory!</i></b>
Mar 12	<b>Depart for Archbold</b>
Mar 21	Return to Syracuse
Mar 22	Discussion of final projects; last day of class meetings

*We reserve the right to announce minor alterations to the course schedule.*

*A separate schedule will be provided for the field trip.*

### COURSE POLICY

**Attendance, lateness**— Students are strongly encouraged to attend all class meeting times and to be present promptly at the beginning of class.

**Class participation**— Active participation in discussions, exercises, and projects is strongly encouraged. Participation is a component of the course grade.

**Presentation**— There will be one formal presentation focused on the research projects. Details of the presentation will be discussed in class.

*Field trip*— A major component of the course will be conducted at the Archbold Biological Station in Lake Placid, Florida. Participation in the field trip for its full duration is required.

*Field notebook*— Students are encouraged to use creativity while keeping a field notebook. Daily notes pertaining to scientific observations and data collection will be kept during the field trip. Field books will be electronic versions enhanced with digital images, drawings, or sound recordings. Appropriate content and format will be discussed in class.

*Research project*— Students will design, implement, and write-up a research project. All projects will be conducted at the field station. Details of the research project will be discussed in class.

*Late assignments*— Late work will be deducted 5% per day it is late. Work is considered late when it is handed in after 2:00 pm (2:01 pm is late!). For example, if an assignment earned a 90% grade and was turned in on Monday rather than its due date of Friday, it would be scored as a 75% (three days late). Unless otherwise noted, assignments are due by 2:00 pm in class. (I use atomic time, available online.)

*Academic integrity*— The Syracuse University Academic Integrity Policy holds students accountable for the integrity of the work they submit. Students should be familiar with the policy and know that it is their responsibility to learn about instructor and general academic expectations with regard to proper citation of sources in written work. The policy also governs the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments as well as the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verifications of participation in class activities. Serious sanctions can result from academic dishonesty of any sort.

With the exception of specified team assignments, student work and performance on quizzes and assignments will represent individual effort. **Cheating is defined as obtaining or giving unauthorized help on assignments, quizzes, and papers.** Obtaining illegal copies of quiz questions prior to the quiz or tampering with a graded quiz or assignment are also defined as cheating. **Plagiarism is defined as representing someone else's work or ideas as your own.** Using more than four consecutive words from a printed source (e.g., book, journal article, or internet resource) without quotation marks and a reference to the source is plagiarism. Similarly, copying from another student's paper or from a website on the internet is also considered plagiarism. Copying ideas of others without reference to the source or person is plagiarism. Students caught plagiarizing or cheating will minimally receive zero credit on the assignment or quiz and may receive a failing grade for the course. All cases of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Academic Integrity office. For detailed information about SU's academic integrity policy, visit the following website: <http://academicintegrity.syr.edu>

*Disability statement*— Students who may need academic accommodations due to a disability are encouraged to discuss their needs with me at the beginning of the semester. In order to obtain authorized accommodations, students should be registered with the Office of Disability Services (ODS), 804 University Avenue, Room 309, 315-443-4498, [odssched@syr.edu](mailto:odssched@syr.edu) and have an updated accommodation letter for the instructors. Accommodations and related support services such as exam administration are not provided retroactively and must be requested in advance. For more information about disability services and policy, see the Office of Disability Services website (<http://disabilityservices.syr.edu/>).

## GRADING

The following is the percentage breakdown for guaranteed final grades:

A	93-100%	C+	77-79%
A-	90-92%	C	73-76%
B+	87-89%	C-	70-72%
B	83-86%	D	60-69%
B-	80-82%	F	less than 60%

*Class participation*— Participation in discussions, and lab/field exercises will be worth 30% (UGs) or 20% (Grads) of the final grade. Inappropriate behavior on the field trip will result in a zero participation score.

*Field notebook*— The electronic field notebook is worth 50% (UGs) or 40% (Grads) of the final grade. Notebooks are due at 5:00 pm on April 1, 2016 and will not be accepted late.

*Presentation*— The presentation is worth 20% of the final grade for undergraduates and 15% for graduate students. There will be no make-up presentations.

*Final project paper*— Graduate students will submit a final paper, written as a scientific article, will be worth 25% of the final grade. Details of the requirements for format will be discussed in class.

### Grade Overview

	Undergrads	Grads
Participation	30%	20%
Field Notebook	50%	40%
Final Presentation	20%	15%
Final Paper (Grads only)		25%