

# Ecology

(BIOL 250 & 251)



Monday, Wednesday & Friday 12:30 - 1:20 PM (lecture – 107Alb.)  
Monday 2:30 – 4:20 (laboratory – 202 Alb.)

**Instructor:** Dr. Brent C. Blair

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**Office Hours:** Tuesday & Wednesday 9:00 – 9:50, and Thursday 1:00 - 1:50 or by appointment

**Required text:**

Molles, 2007. Ecology Concepts and Applications. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition.

**Discussion readings, worksheets etc.:** Additional materials will be required periodically throughout the course. Articles will be available on-line through our course website (<http://staff.xu.edu/~blairb/>) and other materials will be handed out during class.

It is important that you read the discussion articles before coming to class! There will be periodic POP quizzes (5 pt. each) on assigned discussion articles. Quizzes will take 5 minutes and occur at the beginning of the class period. No make up quizzes will be given. Quizzes are not intended to be difficult, but rather to encourage everyone to do the readings so we can have fruitful discussions.

**Goals:** “Ecology is the scientific study of the processes influencing the distribution and abundance of organisms, the interactions among organisms, and the interactions between organisms and the transformation and flux of energy and matter.” (Institute for Ecosystem Studies)

The overall purpose of this course is to explore the hierarchical nature of ecology, which spans from the individual organism, to the community and the ecosystem. Special attention will be given to learning the theoretical and experimental frameworks of ecology that scientists use to expand knowledge in this discipline.

**Attendance:** Coming to class is mandatory. A significant portion of test material will be based on material presented in lectures and discussions that is not necessarily found in your textbook. This course will be an interactive experience where you will be expected to think critically and interact with myself and each other. This cannot be accomplished without being present!!

**Assigned readings:** Assigned readings should be read BEFORE coming to lecture. Although there will be overlap between lectures and readings much of the material in lecture will go beyond your textbook. I will assume that you have a basic understanding of your reading assignments.

**Grading:** Your grade will be based on 4 tests (75 pts. each), various classroom and lab assignments, and participation in lecture and lab.

Tests:	300
Assignments:	100 (Lab)
	50 (Lecture)
Participation:	50
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<b>Total</b>	<b>500 pts</b>

**Tests:** There will be 4 tests (75 points each). Although tests are not cumulative understanding many topics in this course depends on understanding material previously presented and discussed.



**Assignments:** Periodic in-class and homework assignments will be due throughout the course. Unless otherwise noted all homework assignments should be **typed, double-spaced & stapled** and handed in at the **beginning of lecture** on the day they are due. Generally, lecture assignments will be worth 5 pts and lab assignments will be worth between 5 – 20 pts each depending on the length and difficulty of the assignment. Note that **all** assignments (lecture and lab) should be handed in at the beginning of lecture. Lab assignments handed in during lab will be considered late. Pop quizzes will be counted towards the lecture assignment total.

**Participation:** If you do not attend class, you can not participate! If you are not adding your thoughts to the discussion you are not participating! This portion of your grade will be based in part on attendance (lab and lecture) and in part on your active involvement in the class.

**Late Penalty:** Late assignments will be marked down 5% for each school day (or partial day) they are late.

**Final Grade:** Your course will be graded on a standard scale (i.e., not curved). If your score is close to the next letter grade (above or below) “+” and “-“ grades will be used.

<b>A</b> = 450 - 500 (90-100%)	(90-92%=A-, 93-100%=A)
<b>B</b> = 400 - 449 (80-89%)	(80-82%=B-, 83-86%=B, 87-89%=B+)
<b>C</b> = 350 - 399 (70-79%)	(70-72%=C-, 73-76%=C, 77-79%=C+)
<b>D</b> = 300 - 349 (60-69%)	(60-66%=D, 67-69%=D+)
<b>F</b> = < 300	(59% and below) (0-59%=F)

