SYLLABUS

ZOL 355, Ecology
Summer 2012, 3 credits
14 May – 13 June 2012
Lectures: Mon, Wed 9am-5pm

INSTRUCTOR
Dr. Idelle Cooper
Office hours are by appointment.
My office is in Room 241. My
office phone is 269-671-2237.
Email is the best way to contact me: cooperi@msu.edu

TEACHING ASSISTANT
Jorge Celi (celijorg@msu.edu)

TEXT
Page #’s listed on course schedule are for the 5th edition (4th or 6th edition will also work, but the
page numbers are off).

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Ecology is the study of how organisms interact with their environment. In this course, we will
cover four broad topic areas spanning different levels of organization: (1) Population dynamics
(2) Interactions between populations (3) Communities and (4) Ecosystems. Each level will be
considered in an evolutionary context. This is not a typical lecture course. While there typically
will be 2-3 hours of lecture each day, we will spend the majority of our time outside, in the field,
doing science.

We’re cramming a lot of material into 4 weeks. To keep up, I strongly recommend that you read
any assigned material before each lecture so we can discuss topics in greater depth during class
and to help us understand the concepts behind each experiment. Each “field exercise” will also
have an associated worksheet with additional background information—please read these
BEFORE class (they will be emailed).

GRADING
We will have 2 quizzes (worth 25 points each) and 3 homework exercises (homeworks 1 and 2
worth 9 points each; homework 3 worth 18 points). You will receive 1 point for completing each
lab exercise worksheet (10 points total, worksheets are due at the beginning of the class
following the exercise). The remaining 4 points will be awarded for a blog posting on our course
blog, which each student will contribute to at one point during the course. All students are
expected to participate (points will be deducted from the lab exercise score if participation does

Not to be confused with

SYLLABUS

To make a fine Syllabub from the Cow.
Sweeten a quart of cyder with double
refined sugar, grate nutmeg into it, then
milk your cow into your liquor, when you
have thus added what quantity of milk
you think proper, pour half a pint or more,
in proportion to the quantity of syllaebub
you make, of the sweetest cream you can
get all over it.
not occur). Participation means contributing to discussions and being helpful in the field (field biology can be difficult and unpredictable, though the mosquitoes are predictable…). Quizzes will draw primarily from material presented and discussed in lecture or included in the lab exercises. There will not be a formal final exam.

Final grades will be assigned as in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final Average (%)</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>3.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>65-69</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>60-64</td>
<td>1.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>&lt;60</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ATTENDANCE:** You are expected to come to all lectures unless there are extenuating circumstances (illness, family emergency, etc.). If you are unable to attend a lecture please contact the instructor, preferably in advance or else immediately afterward. This course proceeds at 4X the normal speed and thus missing meetings will quickly put you behind.