

Wiley College Course Syllabus

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

Spring 2020

Course Code BIOL4241-01 Special Problems

Class Day & Time: H 3:00-4:20 PM

Location: SB 239

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Stephanie Gorski

PHONE: 903-923-2485

OFFICE: BSB 160

EMAIL: sgorski@wileyc.edu

OFFICE HOURS: M 2-5, T 3-5, W 1:30-3, H 1:30-3, F 10-12 or by appointment

PREREQUISITE COURSES: None

TEXT BOOK:

There is no textbook for this course.

Cengage.com Information: <https://www.cengage.com/>

Tips for a Strong Start

Upon registering for courses, you will have access to Cengage's First Day Success model including a catalog of over 22,000 ebooks, digital learning platforms, and study tools. Access to these resources, with the option for requesting print copies, is now available. No additional fees are associated for accessing these resources.

If you desire a print copy of your textbook(s), please visit <https://www.wileyc.edu/academic-affairs/textbook-requests/>, which will direct you to the Print Textbook Request page. September 5, 2018, is the last date you can request a hard copy textbook for the Fall 2018 semester.

METHODS OF INSTRUCTIONAL DELIVERY:

METHODS OF EVALUATION: Students will be evaluated using quizzes, tests, class participation, writing assignments, exams, etc. . . There will be 2 or more exams before and after midterm.

Oral presentation	20%
Paper	80%

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A General course including a study of plant and animal distribution, ecological interrelationships, and observation of the delicate balance in nature. Three hours of lecture and two hours of laboratory per week.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

After successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

- 1) Describe underlying facts, principles, and paradigms of modern ecology including the abiotic environment, community biology, and population biology
- 2) Utilize methodology, including sampling and electronic data management appropriate to the study of ecology
- 3) Write clearly on the real-life application of ecological principles.
- 4) Describe how ecological scientists study animal and plant populations the extent to which populations can be considered to exhibit structure.
- 5) Show experience in the application of the scientific method, statistics, models, graphs, computers, and spreadsheets to the investigation of ecological questions.

QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN OUTCOMES

The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), known as “Communicate Through Debate,” is a necessary part of the accreditation requirements at Wiley College. This campus-wide project is the nation’s first Debate Across the Curriculum initiative. There are four QEP learning outcomes directly connected to:

Learning Outcome 1: Students will be able to compile and analyze empirical and expert evidence from diverse media to support a logical claim.

Learning Outcome 2: Students will be able to draw conclusions by evaluating an argument to determine the veracity of the evidence and the logic of the idea.

Learning Outcome 3: Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and application of a well-formulated argument that uses evidence to support their position.

Learning Outcome 4: Students will be able to recognize opposing viewpoints and utilize researched evidence to champion their position through the exchange of verbal questions and answers.

MARKETABLE SKILLS FOR GENERAL BIOLOGY

Literacy (Reading)	Reinforced and Assessed
Active Listening	Reinforced
Literacy (Writing)	Reinforced and Assessed
Critical Thinking	Reinforced and Assessed
Oral Communication	Reinforced
Time Management	Reinforced
Relationship Management	Reinforced
Problem Solving	Reinforced and Assessed
Technology	Introduced and Reinforced

SOFT SKILLS/CRITICAL SKILLS

Communication Skills	Reinforced and Assessed
Problem-solving Skills	Reinforced and Assessed
Punctuality	Reinforced and Assessed
Team Player	Reinforced and Assessed
Time Management Skills	Reinforced and Assessed

Work Ethic	Reinforced and Assessed
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GENERAL EDUCATION COMPETENCIES

The General Education Competencies emphasized (E), reinforced (R) or assessed (A) in this course are:

1. Communication (E) (A)
2. Critical Thinking and Reasoning Skills (E)
3. Information Management (E)
4. Technology Literacy (E)
5. Cultural/Global Awareness and Social Responsibility
6. Appreciation for the Arts
7. Religious and Spiritual Awareness, Ethical and Moral Development

STUDENTS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING BIOL 2451 SHOULD BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES IN ALL OF THE FOLLOWING AREAS

Knowledge (K)

K1: Demonstrate the ability to research from a variety of sources and evaluate, analyze, and synthesize the information.

K2: Demonstrate the ability to synthesize approaches to problems, issues or dilemmas.

K3: Demonstrate original and critical thinking including the ability to analyze written texts.

Skills and Applied Knowledge (S)

S1: Accurately and subtly apply critical terminology and concepts.

S2: Demonstrate proficiency in written communication.

S3: Appraise a given context and apply theory to real-world situations.

S4: Write fluently and edit carefully.

Attitudes (A)

A1: Question the status quo, think critically about how given actions affect other people, and act appropriately as fully engaged and empowered citizens.

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A2: Demonstrate knowledge of contemporary issues related to cultural diversity in the United States and other areas of the world.

College Assessment Statement

As a part of Wiley College's commitment to providing the environment and resources needed for success, students may be required to participate in a number of college-wide assessments activities. The activities may include tests, surveys, focus groups and interviews, and portfolio reviews. The primary purpose of the assessment activities is to determine the extent to which the college 's programs and services maintain a high level of quality and meet the needs of students. Students will not be identified in the analysis of results. Unless indicated otherwise by the by instructor, results from College assessment activities will not be computed in student's grades.

SOFTWARE AND SUPPLIES

Students should familiarize themselves with MyWiley, useful sites on the internet and the Wiley library, helpful high engagement strategies, and be prepared for each class with notebooks, paper, and pens.

COURSE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

General Policies

Students are required to complete reading assignments and be prepared for each class. Student participation will be a part of the final grade in the course; methods of participation include speaking voluntarily in class, responding when called upon, participating actively in group assignments, showing a willingness to listen *actively* in class (in other words, not sleeping, texting, using the internet, or chatting with classmates).

SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS

All major assignments for this course will be submitted electronically using MyWiley, Mindtap, or Canvas. These submissions should be in .doc or .docx format only. Please use a standard 12-point font such as Times New Roman, Palatino, or Garamond. Use **one inch margins and standard MLA or APA headers**, (citation style according to the discipline), and **double-space** all documents.

Certain daily assignments, such as reading quizzes, will be composed in-class. Therefore, please be sure you are prepared with ample pens, pencils, and notebook paper, and make sure you **include your name and date on all submissions** and write legibly.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Class Attendance

Class attendance is regarded as an obligation and is important to the attainment of the educational goals of the students and the College. Therefore, students are required to be on time and to attend classes regularly. Each instructor must keep accurate and permanent records of class attendance to support grades awarded. The attendance policy is included in the course syllabus and explained at the beginning of each semester by the instructor. It is a general observation that students who faithfully attend classes and pay attention, rarely fail the course (the higher the absences the lower final grade).

The Dean of students is the only officer of the College authorized to excuse in accordance with College policy, a student's absence from any class or attendance-required function of the College. Notes or documents issued by physicians, parents, college nurse, athletic program, and other materials documenting justification for missing a class must be submitted on a timely basis (maximum of two weeks following an absence) to the appropriate division dean. The division dean will notify the professor(s) and the attendance counselor of excused absences. An absence not excused by the division dean is an unexcused absence.

Students are allowed a maximum of one unexcused absence for each semester hour credit for the course. For example, if the course offers three semester hours of credit the student will be allowed three unexcused absences. If the student is absent more than six times (excluding excused absences due to representing the College or illness), the student will receive an automatic "F" in the course, or the student will be officially dropped from the course by the instructor. An absence due to a student representing the College, when properly documented with the instructor and division dean **prior** to the absence, is an excused absence.

Absences from regularly scheduled classes in the non-traditional programs are counted on the basis of each 50-minute-equivalent period missed. For example, a course is scheduled to meet for four consecutive 50-minute periods per week (e.g., Thursdays from 6-10 p.m.). A student who misses an entire Thursday class (6-10 p.m.) is automatically charged with four (4) absences unless excused according to the procedures and standards described above. Missing another Thursday session or an aggregate of four 50-minute periods will cause the student to be officially dropped by the teacher from the course.

Absence from class, excused or unexcused, does not relieve any student of the responsibility for completing assignments and being familiar with the material covered in class. The student is responsible for arranging for make-up work with the instructor of record prior to the absence or departure from campus.

*Students representing the College must maintain at least a “C” average per semester and must make arrangements with their teachers for making up missed classes, **prior to the class absences**. Instructors are obligated to assist students who: (a) identify themselves as college representatives from the start of the course, (b) make arrangements for excused absences prior to the period(s) missed and (c) meet the agreed upon documented conditions. Failure to meet agreed and documented conditions removes the excuse and the absence becomes counted as unexcused.*

A student will be dropped from a course for non-attendance or non-payment by the census date at 5 p.m.

ATTENDANCE WILL BE REPORTED ON-LINE DAILY!

TECHNOLOGY

Email Use

Wiley College recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The college encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student’s Wiley College email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a Wiley College student account. This allows the college to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individuals corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. Wiley College furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with college personnel.

Participation in this course will require use of Wiley College email ONLY in accordance with College policy. Be sure to check with the Instructional Technology department to ensure that your email account is in order and your computer is working properly. You always have the option to come to campus and use the computers in the labs and the library.

Technical Support

For technical support with your MyWiley or email accounts, please contact the Information Systems and Technology Department at 903-927-3310 or by email at helpdesk1@wileyc.edu.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

The Wiley College Catalog describes academic dishonesty in the following manner:

...an act or attempted act, of giving or obtaining aid and/or information by illicit means in meeting any academic requirements, including examinations. It also includes any form of cheating, plagiarism, falsification of records and/or collusion. Students are expected to refrain from cheating which includes, but is

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not necessarily limited to: copying from another's test or quiz paper; using supplementary materials, electronic devices (calculators, Bluetooth and iPhones, notes, books, Twitter and text messaging, etc.) not authorized by the examiner/instructor; substitution for another student in taking a test; using, buying, selling, stealing, soliciting, transporting, or removing in whole or in part an un-administered test or key information regarding same. Falsifying records, such as alteration of grades or other records, plagiarism and collusion will not be tolerated.

Plagiarism is the submission or incorporation of someone else's work without permission and/or appropriate acknowledgement. Collusion is collaboration with another person or persons in preparing projects, take-home examinations or tests, etc., without proper authorization.

Any student caught engaging in an act of academic dishonesty will assigned a penalty appropriate for the act. These penalties will be assigned at the discretion of the faculty member and may be appealed to the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs.

The instructor, along with the appropriate academic area chair person, division dean, Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs, and the Academic Council, may determine penalties (in addition to those listed below) for dealing with dishonesty if the student is found guilty:

1. a warning;
2. assigning an "F" for a test;
3. assigning an "F" for a course;
4. assigning an "F" grade for all courses enrolled in for the semester;
5. assigning a status of academic probation;
6. assigning a status of academic suspension;
7. permanent dismissal;
8. denial or revocation of degree.

The student has the right to appeal disciplinary actions in accordance with appeal procedures defined in the *Student Handbook* (see *Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services* section of the catalog).

REMEDIATION PLAN

Students who have difficulty with the course will have the opportunity to:

- Meet with the professor for one-on-one support through fact-to-face meetings, telephone sessions, or web conferencing.
- Revise unsatisfactory work until it is satisfactory within a 7 day time limit.

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ONLINE “NETIQUETTE”

All students in the online class must strictly observe the standards of polite online communication known as netiquette. Online learning requires that everyone in the course (both students and professors) work together and share their ideas. That type of collaboration is only possible and beneficial when we all agree to treat one another with respect. Unfortunately, the types of communication we use online don't always foster a respectful environment. Because we aren't speaking face to face, we might forget that there is a person with valid thoughts and feelings behind each username we see in the chat room or over email. That means we have to take extra care to monitor our own behavior.

GRADING

Grading Requirements

90 -100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
59 or less	F

Oral Presentation	20%
Written Presentation	80%
Total	100%

Note: **The only route to a good grade is through timely, consistent submission of your assignments.** Do not expect to be allowed to turn in alternative assignments, or to wait to submit work until the end of the semester!

A grade of “A” is reserved for students whose work product exceeds expectations, who attend class regularly and contribute meaningfully to discussion, and who demonstrate professionalism by turning work in on-time. So that this class is fair to everyone, you will be graded on your work only. No preferential treatment will be given to students who are on scholarship, members

of organizations, or hoping to maintain a certain GPA. I will ignore requests for grade “bumps” based on personal reasons.

Students with zero unexcused absences, tardies, or late assignments will receive a Dependability Certificate at the end of the semester. This award will be added to your permanent transcript and will impress future employers!

Seven (7) semesters of General Education Enrichment Program (GEEP), Chapel Courses are required for graduation. All students will register for the GEEP Course corresponding to their class, i.e., freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior. Discussion assignments are due weekly for each grade level. Attendance and coursework are mandatory.

STUDENT CONDUCT

The College has a definite and binding responsibility to promote appropriate student conduct on the campus. This responsibility must be shared by all members of the College community. The policies governing standards for student behavior, referred to herein as the Student Code of Conduct, reinforce the College’s right and duty to promulgate regulations for the safety and welfare of the College community. The policies provided herein are designed to provide a swift remedy, by means of exclusion from the campus or College premises, for cases involving students who commit overt acts of violence, or otherwise engage in illegal conduct that disrupts the orderly operation of the College

NON-DISCRIMINATION AND SPECIAL NEEDS

In order to reasonably accommodate the needs of students with impairments, students with documented disabilities who may need academic services for this class are required to register with the Director of Student Support and Disability Services. Unless the student has been cleared through the Office of Disability Services, accommodations will not be provided. The name, telephone number and email for the Director of Student Support and Disability Services: Ms. Sylvia Frank, telephone: 903-927-3298, email: sfrank@wileyc.edu. The Disability Office is located in the Wiley Complex, room 128.

Academic Protocol:

Instructor of Record: Dr. Steph Gorski

Lead Professor: Dr. Steph Gorski

Dr. H. Cha, Interim Dean, Business and Technology, (903) 927-3343

Dr. Brooke Woodard, Dean, Sciences, (903) 927-3248

Dr. Bernadette Bruster, Dean, Social Sciences & Humanities, (903) 927-3374

Dr. K. Young, Dean, School of Education, (903) 923-2432

Dr. Cynthia Hester, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (903) 923-1620

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Important Dates to Remember:

February 10 Monday Registration Open
July 27 Monday Faculty Return
July 28 Tuesday Residence Life Halls Open for Freshmen
July 28 Tuesday Parent Orientation
July 29 Wednesday Freshmen Orientation
July 29 – 30 Wednesday – Thursday Faculty/Staff Institute
July 30 – 31 Thursday – Friday Faculty Workdays/Faculty Participation – Freshmen Orientation
July 31 Friday Fall 2020 Tuition Payment Due (1st Payment Deadline – 60% of balance due)
August 1 Saturday Residence Halls Open for Returning Students
August 3 Monday First Day of Class
August 3 Monday Late Registration Begins – Fees Apply
August 3 – 7 Monday – Friday SGA Elections Filing Week
August 3 – 8 Monday – Saturday Welcome Back Week for Students
August 13 Thursday First day to apply and pay fees for graduation in May 2021 and submit Recommendations and Degree Plans
August 7 Friday Last day to add and/or drop a class for Fall 2020
August 17 – 21 Monday – Friday SGA Campaign Week
August 18 Tuesday Census Day
August 19 Wednesday First day to withdraw from a course and receive a “W”
August 19 – 20 Wednesday – Thursday Reinstatement Period
August 21 Friday SGA Freshmen Elections
August 25 Tuesday President’s Fall Convocation
August 31 Monday Fall 2020 Tuition Payment Due (2nd Payment Deadline)
September 7 Monday Labor Day Holiday – Campus Closed
September 7 – 11 Monday – Friday See your Academic Advisor Week
September 21 – 23 Monday – Wednesday Mid-Term Exams
September 25 Friday Mid-Term Grades Due to Registrar's Office at Noon
September 30 Wednesday Fall 2020 Tuition Payment Due (3rd Payment Deadline)
September 30 Wednesday Final Tuition Payment Due
October 6 – 10 Tuesday – Saturday Mental Health Awareness Week
October 9 Friday Last day to withdraw from a course with a “W” and/or withdraw from the College
October 23 Friday Last day to apply and pay fees for December 2020 graduates (Late fees apply)
November 1 – 7 Sunday – Saturday Homecoming Week
November 6 Friday Spring 2021 Tuition Payment Due (1st Payment Deadline-60% of balance due)
November 7 Saturday Homecoming Parade and Game Day
November 9 Monday Veterans Day Holiday – Campus Closed
November 13 Friday Last Day of Class
November 9 – 13 Monday – Friday Concentrated Study Period (No student activities, meetings or other events requiring student participation will be scheduled)
November 16 – 19 Monday – Thursday Final Exams
November 21 Saturday Residence Life Halls close for fall semester
November 24 Tuesday Final Grades Due to the Registrar's Office at Noon
November 26 – 27 Thursday – Friday Thanksgiving Holiday - Campus Closed
November 30 - December 4 Monday – Friday Faculty/Staff Workdays
December 18 Friday Campus closes at 5:00 PM
December 21 - January 1, 2021 Wednesday – Friday Christmas/New Year Holidays

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WEEKLY COURSE SCHEDULE

<u>Week</u>	Topics and Reading	Assignments and Due Dates
Unit 1: Introduction Week 1	Literature search in the field of interest	Literature search in the field of interest
Week 2	Literature search in the field of interest	Literature search in the field of interest
Unit 2: Physical factors Week 3	Literature search in the field of interest	Literature search in the field of interest
Week 4	Literature search in the field of interest	Literature search in the field of interest
Week 5	Literature search in the field of interest	Literature search in the field of interest
Unit 3: Population Week 6	Literature search in the field of interest	Literature search in the field of interest
Week 7	Literature search in the field of interest	Literature search in the field of interest
Week 8	Literature search in the field of interest	Literature search in the field of interest
Unit 4: Interactions Week 9	Literature search in the field of interest	Literature search in the field of interest
Week 10	Literature search in the field of interest	Literature search in the field of interest
Unit 5: Population Week 11	Literature search in the field of interest	Literature search in the field of interest
Week 12	Literature search in the field of interest	Literature search in the field of interest

Unit 6: Life Week 13	Literature search in the field of interest	Literature search in the field of interest
Week 14	Literature search in the field of interest	Literature search in the field of interest
Week 15	Literature search in the field of interest	Literature search in the field of interest
Week 16	Literature search in the field of interest	Literature search in the field of interest