

Ecology (BIO 325 - 001, 002, 003, 004) Spring 2026

Instructor: Dr. Robbie Burger

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Office hours: Please email for appointment

Lecture time/location: T, Th 11:00 am-12:15 pm / THM Rm.116

Lab Coordinator: Dr. Kausalya (Kay) Shenoy

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Laboratory Instructors

Binaya Adhikari

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Tania Rojas Carbajal

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Lab Instructor Office Hours: Email your instructor for an appointment.

Laboratory Sections

Section	Time	Instructor
001	12:30–3:20 PM	Binaya Adhikari
002	1:00–3:50 PM	Tania Rojas Carbajal
003	12:30–3:20 PM	Binaya Adhikari
004	1:00–3:50 PM	Tania Rojas Carbajal

Makeup exams: within 1 week of scheduled exam

Course Description

This course examines how organisms—including humans—interact with their environments across levels of biological organization, from physiological ecology and life histories to populations, communities, ecosystems, landscapes, and the biosphere. Students develop a conceptual foundation in contemporary ecology, learn how ecological knowledge is generated and evaluated, and explore how ecological theory and data inform solutions to societal and environmental challenges. The course includes lectures (3 hours/week) and laboratory and field exercises (≈3 hours/week). Prerequisites: BIO 148 and BIO 152 (or equivalent introductory biology sequence) and BIO 304 (or equivalent genetics), or consent of instructor.

Course Objectives

The course introduces core concepts in ecology, including life history evolution, population and community dynamics, island biogeography, and global ecology. In parallel, students examine interdisciplinary topics in human ecology, applying ecological concepts to human–environment interactions. Emphasis is placed on understanding underlying processes, integrating theory with data, and developing skills in critical thinking, group science, and the scientific process.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Explain key concepts in basic and applied ecology
- Apply ecological and evolutionary principles to real-world and interdisciplinary problems
- Critically evaluate scientific studies and interpret graphical and quantitative data
- Describe large-scale ecological patterns and scaling relationships
- Analyze human impacts on Earth's ecosystems
- Develop informed skepticism toward scientific claims and evidence

Course Materials:

Canvas: all information and materials will be posted on Canvas

Recommended but not required text: Relyea 2021 Ecology: The Economy of Nature 9 Edition. (Electronic version available)

Other readings: Posted to Canvas

Use of GenAI: For lecture, students are encouraged to use Artificial Intelligence (AI; e.g., ChatGPT) if it's useful. For example, outlining/condensing study notes for a specific topic. However, AI is not always accurate. So, students are expected to check AI products for accuracy including verifying credibility of sources (e.g., consistency with lecture materials, peer-reviewed journal articles and scientific books). The use of AI will not be permitted during lecture exams.

The use of AI is not permitted for laboratory assignments. The goal of laboratory assignments is to be able to express hypotheses, results, and conclusions in one's own words, hence all laboratory work must be done independently.

If you do not have access to a computer at home: UK has internet-ready computers available for students throughout the campus (e.g., libraries and computer labs). If you are not familiar with how Canvas works, or would like additional information, please visit the Canvas online training site at: <http://www.uky.edu/ukonline/canvas-0>. Turn-off pop-up blockers (or allow pop-up windows for course-related links).

Assessments and Grades

Grading policy: Grades will be based on an absolute scale:

A ≥ 90%; B ≥ 80%; C ≥ 70%; D ≥ 60%; E < 60%

Disputes on graded assignments need to be addressed within one week from when the assignment was returned.

Grading breakdown

Online Quizzes: 15%

Exam 1: 20%

Exam 2: 20%

Exam 3: 20%

Laboratory: 25%

Total: 100%

Lecture component is **75%** of your grade

Class Participation

You are required to be an active participant in-class. Approximately half the lectures you will work in pairs or small groups. There will be additional discussion questions posed throughout lectures where we will use think-pair-share to think about the question individually, pairing with others to compare answers before sharing your group's consensus with the class. Participation in these discussions is a critical component of this course. Exams and quizzes will include any material covered in lecture.

Post-lecture Canvas quizzes (15%)

Each week a quiz will be posted to Canvas covering lecture materials. It will be due by 8 pm the following Monday. The tentative schedule of topics for each week is posted below.

Exams 1, 2 & 3 (20% each)

There will be three in-class exams on lecture materials covered up to the exam date.

The laboratory component is **25%** of your grade.

- **In-class assignments (28% of lab grade):** These worksheets are in question-answer format and cover your understanding and basic findings from the lab. Students will work on these as a group. By default, worksheets are due at the end of lab on the same day.
- **Long worksheet and lab report (35% of lab grade):** One “long-worksheet” (also in question-answer format) will be assigned and must be completed **individually**. This is similar to a lab report, but in question-answer format. After being trained through a long worksheet, students will write one traditional lab report. These are due the midnight of the day before lab of the following week.
- **Pre-lab quizzes (18% of lab grade):** Quizzes are online on Canvas and open book. These must be completed individually without collaboration with other students. Students are required to have read the material before coming to the lab, so the quizzes are based on the material that is yet to be covered that week. They are due the midnight the day before lab.
- **Participation (12% of lab grade):** students are awarded 3 points for participation for every lab session. Points reflect the student's preparedness, enthusiasm, and involvement in that day's lab session. Loss of participation points is often related to non-compliance with the “Student Expectation” and other lab rules.

Homework (7% of lab grade): There are 2 homework assignments, each worth a different number of points.

Attendance Policy

Attendance in lecture and lab is required but not monitored. There are no positive points gained for attendance. **Students with unexcused absences are not allowed to complete the lab assignments, including the lab report or long worksheet, associated with the missed lab.**

A **missed exam** will result in a score of zero unless an acceptable excuse is presented to the instructor **within one week of the missed exam**. Students who miss exams with unexcused absences may be allowed to take a make-up exam but will incur a **10% penalty** for missing the original exam. All missed exams must be made up within one week of the originally scheduled exam date or during the final exam period, unless extreme circumstances (e.g., medical or family emergencies) prevent this.

The following are acceptable reasons for excused absences: (a) serious illness, (b) illness or death of family member, (c) University-related trips, (d) major religious holidays, (e) Interviews for full-time job opportunities after graduation and interviews for graduate or professional school, and (f) other circumstances found to fit “reasonable cause for nonattendance” by the professor.

Verification of Absences: Students may be asked to verify their excuses in order for them to be considered acceptable. Faculty have the right to request “appropriate verification” when students claim an excused reason for a missed deadline because of illness, or death in the family. Appropriate notification of University-related trips is required prior to the trip when feasible if the trip interferes with completion of assignments and/or exams, and in no case more than one week after the deadline. Submitting **forged or altered documentation** or providing information that is substantially incorrect to excuse an absence is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

*Students missing assignments due to an excused absence bear the responsibility of informing the instructor about their absence and providing documentation for the excuse within **7 calendar days** following the date of the excused absence (except where prior notification is required) and arranging for making up the missed work.*

Documentation for absences due to illnesses: In all cases, please provide the **exact date of the missed class** and a **list of the assignments missed**.

- In case of an illness that requires you to be absent from class but does not require a visit to the doctor (Tier 1): Please provide an “Explanatory Statement for Absence from Class” which can be found here: (PDF uploaded to Canvas; find under Files → Uploaded Media). ***This mode of notification for an excused absence will be accepted only ONCE during the semester.***
- In case of Tier 2 and Tier 3 illnesses (those that require a visit to the doctor): Please provide written evidence of having visited the doctor.
- If you have an illness that requires you to miss classes periodically throughout the semester, please provide a doctor’s letter or DRC accommodation letter stating the same **at the earliest once you become aware of the condition**.

NOTE: All doctor’s notes WILL be verified!

Students anticipating missing classes for a **major religious holiday** are responsible for notifying the instructor in writing of anticipated absences due to their observance of

such holidays **no later than the last day to add a class for that semester**. Two weeks prior to the start of the holiday is reasonable but should not be given any later. Information regarding major religious holidays may be obtained through the Ombud (859-257-3737): http://www.uky.edu/Ombud/ForStudents_ExcusedAbsences.php.

Etiquette and Participation

Active, professional participation is required in all laboratory sessions. Instructors may deduct participation points for failure to follow laboratory and classroom etiquette. Deductions may be taken from total course points if participation points are exhausted.

Students are expected to:

- Follow required laboratory attire and safety guidelines
- Be fully present and engaged in group discussions and lab activities
- Refrain from using phones, email, or websites unrelated to lab work (per instructor discretion)
- Not talk while the instructor is speaking or otherwise disrupt the class
- Arrive on time and remain for the full lab period unless excused
- Avoid eating or drinking in the lab
- Silence phones; emergency calls require advance notice to the instructor
- Complete all group work before leaving the lab
- Clean and organize workstations before departure

Failure to meet these expectations—including late arrival (more than 5 minutes), non-participation, early departure, or unsafe/unprofessional behavior—may result in participation point deductions.

Online Civility and Decorum: The University, College, and Department all have a commitment to respect the dignity of all and to value differences among members of our academic community. The University of Kentucky is committed to our core values of diversity and inclusion, mutual respect and human dignity, and a sense of community.

There exists the role of discussion and debate in academic discovery and the right of all to respectfully disagree from time-to-time. Students clearly have the right to take reasoned exceptions and to voice opinions contrary to those offered by the instructor and/or other students). Equally, a faculty member has the right—and the responsibility—to ensure that all academic discourse occurs in a context characterized by respect and civility. The accepted level of civility would not include attacks of a personal nature or statements denigrating another on the basis of race, sex, religion, sexual orientation, age, national/regional origin or other such irrelevant factors.

- Students are expected to maintain decorum that includes respect for other students and the instructor, to regularly log in to the course, and to display an attitude that seeks to take full advantage of the educational opportunity. All students are expected to be prepared to work and actively participate in class activities.

- Virtual communication and discussion "in cyberspace" occur in a social environment where normal rules of social interaction apply. The remoteness of the recipients is no excuse to behave in an antisocial manner and post unacceptable messages.
- Unacceptable messages include those that harass, intimidate, threaten, belittle, ridicule, expressed hatred for, or aggression toward others. Let us be mindful to avoid words that imply that some groups of people are less worthy than others (e.g., avoid racist, sexist, anti-Semitic, age-ist, and homophobic language).
- Discussion boards and other electronic communication for this course should relate only to the course subject matter, generally respond to the instructor threads, and always seek to further the aims of that particular discussion forum or chat session (e.g., stay on topic).
- Contributions to discussion boards and synchronous chat are the intellectual property of the authors. Students who quote another person in class projects, publications or even in remarks made on the discussion board should always acknowledge the source of that quote (e.g., do not plagiarize your classmates).
- Personal comments about other users and their views should not be placed in any of our Canvas course areas that are viewable by other users.
- Do not copy private messages to another person without the author's explicit permission.
- Consult the UK Code of Student Conduct regarding the steps for addressing unresolved academic issues at <https://studentsuccess.uky.edu/student-conduct/services/code-student-conduct>

Plagiarism, cheating, and other academic offenses: Per University policy, students shall not plagiarize, cheat, or falsify or misuse academic records. Students are expected to adhere to the University policy on cheating and plagiarism in all courses. The minimum penalty for a first offense is a zero on the assignment on which the offense occurred. If the offense is considered severe or the student has other academic offenses on their record, more serious penalties, up to suspension from the University may be imposed.

Students are required to be familiar with and abide by University's Code (<https://studentsuccess.uky.edu/student-conduct/services/code-student-conduct>). The regulations on cheating (note part II, section 6 of the Code) and other basic academic rules will be rigorously enforced. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating are serious academic offenses. Additional resources for UK policies on academic offenses are available at <https://provost.uky.edu/proposals/guidance-course-proposals/academic-offenses>.

For a thorough description of "plagiarism," see <https://ombud.uky.edu/students/what-plagiarism>.
For a thorough description of "cheating," see <https://ombud.uky.edu/students/what-cheating>.

Disabilities/Medical Conditions: If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations, please inform me as soon as possible. In order to receive

accommodations in this course, you must provide me with a Letter of Accommodation from the Disability Resource Center (DRC). The DRC coordinates campus disability services available to students with disabilities. It is located on the corner of Rose Street and Huguelet Drive in the Multidisciplinary Science Building, Suite 407. You can reach them via phone at (859) 257-2754 and via email at drc@uky.edu. Their web address is <http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/DisabilityResourceCenter/>.

Non-Discrimination Statement and Title IX Information: *UK is committed to providing a safe learning, living, and working environment for all members of the University community.* The University maintains a comprehensive program which protects all members from discrimination, harassment, and sexual misconduct. For complete information about UK's prohibition on discrimination and harassment on aspects such as race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, and sexual orientation, please see the electronic version of UK's Administrative Regulation 6:1 ("Policy on Discrimination and Harassment"). In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the University prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex in academics, employment, and all of its programs and activities. Sexual misconduct is a form of sexual harassment in which one act is severe enough to create a hostile environment based on sex and is prohibited between members of the University community and shall not be tolerated. For more details, please see the electronic version of Administrative Regulations 6:2 ("Policy and Procedures for Addressing and Resolving Allegations of Sexual Assault, Stalking, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, and Sexual Exploitation"). Students can *confidentially* report alleged incidents through the Violence Intervention and Prevention Center, Counseling Center, or University Health Services.

Mental health resources: TRACS - The Triage, Referral, Assistance, and Crisis Support Program <https://studentsuccess.uky.edu/tracs>

Classroom Emergency Plan: Nothing is more important than the safety and well-being of our campus community. While the University of Kentucky Police Department continues to enhance campus safety measures, it's important to remember that everyone has a responsibility in keeping our community safe. To find more information visit Emergency Response Guide | University of Kentucky Police Department (<https://police.uky.edu/emergency-response-guide>)

Lecture Schedule: This is intended as an outline of the flow of topics in the course. Actual lecture material on a given date may vary.

Dates	Topic	Textbook chapters
Jan 13/15	Welcome to the Anthropocene No class	See canvas assignment
Jan 20/22	Earth & human history; Climates & biomes	1, 2

Jan 27/30	Natural selection & adaptation	3, 4, 5
Feb 3/5	Foraging & evolutionary ecology	5, 6
Feb 10/12	Reproduction & life history	7, 8
Feb 17/19	Review & Exam #1	
Feb 24/26	Parental care and sociality	8, 9
March 3/5	Population growth, regulation & life tables	10, 11
March 10/12	Population spatial dynamics (meta-populations)	12
March 17/19	Spring Break - no class	
March 24/26	* Island biogeography (Guest lecture) Exam #2 review	21
March 31/April 2	Species interactions: Predation, herbivory & infectious disease/parasites	13, 14
April 7/9	Communities, competition & mutualisms	15, 16, 17
April 14/16	Energy and elements in ecosystems	19, 20
April 21/23	Global biodiversity & macroecology	21, 22
April 28th	No class – RB traveling	
April 30	Reading day (no class)	
May 7th	Exam #3 – During finals	10:30AM-12:30 PM

Note, topics and chapters are subject to change and will be announced in class.

About The Lab

Laboratory Component (BIO 325 Ecology)

The laboratory provides a guided, hands-on introduction to ecological research across multiple levels of biological organization, including organisms, populations, communities, and ecosystems. Students will use a range of field and laboratory techniques to engage in the full scientific process—from experimental design and data collection to analysis, interpretation, and communication.

Laboratories are not simply demonstrations of lecture material, but a complementary and independent component of the course. Because ecological research depends on natural systems and seasonal constraints, laboratory topics may not always align exactly with lecture content. This asynchrony is intentional and reinforces the integration of theory and practice. Successful participation requires attendance at every lab, active engagement, and collaboration in group-based scientific work.

Laboratory Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the laboratory, students will be able to:

1. **Apply** core ecological concepts through hands-on laboratory and field investigations.
2. **Describe and implement** common ecological research techniques used to study contemporary ecological questions.
3. **Design and conduct** basic ecological studies, including hypothesis formulation and experimental planning.
4. **Analyze and interpret** ecological data using appropriate quantitative and graphical methods.
5. **Communicate** ecological findings effectively in written and oral scientific formats.
6. **Integrate** laboratory results with concepts introduced in the BIO 325 lecture.

Laboratory format: Each week there will be one 170-minutes laboratory session. These will be in-person and participation is mandatory.

Locations

- 8 laboratory sessions will take place on campus in MDS 155A (MDS: Multi-Disciplinary Science Building on Rose Street)
- 3 laboratory sessions will take place at the Ecological Research and Educational Center (EREC)

Please see the course schedule for specific dates and locations. Directions to these locations are provided on Canvas.

Ecological Research and Educational Center (EREC)

The UK Ecological Research and Educational Center (EREC) is on Russell Cave Road. Labs will take place there regardless of weather. Information about maps and other logistics have been posted on Canvas under “Locations”.

Transportation to EREC (see lab schedule for specific weeks) will be provided by UK Parking and Transportation. The bus will pick up students at TH Morgan bldg. loading

dock and will bring you back to campus after completion of the lab. Plan for traffic; during rush hour, expect delays)

- Section 001: Leave THM on Monday at 12:10 PM, return approx. at 4 PM
- Section 002: Leave THM on Tuesday at 12:40 PM, return approx. at 4:30 PM
- Section 003: Leave THM on Wednesday at 12:10 PM, return approx. at 4 PM
- Section 004: Leave THM on Thursday at 12:40 PM, return approx. at 4:30 PM

Lab Materials

Canvas: all information for labs will be posted on Canvas

Lab chapters: We will not use a published lab manual this year. Each week's lab chapter will be posted on Canvas at least one week in advance. Students are required to read the chapter ahead of time in preparation for labs.

Grading, Assignments, Make-ups, and Laboratory Rules

GRADES

Lab grading will be based on the following:

Assignment	Number	Points	Sub-total	% of lab grade	% of course grade
Pre-lab quizzes	11	5	55	~18%	~4%
In-class assignments	11	15	165	~53%	~13%
Participation	11	5	55	~18%	~4%
Homework	4	Variable	36	~12%	~3%

Lab grades will make up 25% of the total BIO 325 course grade. The points earned in the lab will be converted to 25% of the total course grade.

Lab Assignments

- **Pre-lab quizzes:** please see the lab schedule for weeks when pre-lab quizzes are assigned. The quiz will be conducted at the start of class using polling software. These will be open-book no-collaboration quizzes. Students are required to have read the material before coming to the lab, and they will be quizzed on the material that is yet to be covered that day. **Quizzes will be based on background material and the study organism.**
- **In-class assignments:** These include worksheets and a poster. The worksheets are in question-answer format, and cover your understanding and basic findings from the lab. They are designed to train you with scientific report writing. **Students will work on these individually.** There will be one group poster during the semester; these will cover the findings from a particular lab. By default, these assignments are due at the end of the lab on the same day.
- **Participation:** students are awarded 5 points for participation for every lab session. Points reflect the student's preparedness, enthusiasm, and involvement in that day's lab session. Loss of participation points is often related to non-compliance with the "Classroom Etiquette" rules.

- **Homework:** There are four homework assignments. See schedule for dates.

Use of Generative AI for assignments: The in-class worksheets are designed to train students with scientific report writing. So, it is imperative that you complete assignments entirely on your own. You may not utilize composition technologies (e.g. ChatGPT or other GenAI software) because that beats the purpose of the assignments. You may also not use AI technologies to analyze data or create graphics of any kind. Again, this is counterproductive to the learning outcomes of the lab assignments. Work submitted by students—all process work, graphs, tables, analyses, drafts, low stakes writing, final versions, and all other submissions—will be generated by the students themselves. For the purpose of this course, any use of these sites or tools will be considered academic misconduct and consequences will follow University policies. If you have any questions or concerns about this policy, contact your instructor before submitting any assignments.

Attendance in lab

Attendance is required for the lab. There are no positive points gained for attendance. Students with unexcused absences are not allowed to complete the lab assignments, including the lab report or long worksheet, associated with the missed lab.

The following are acceptable reasons for excused absences:

- Illness of the student.
- Illness or death of a family member (doctor's note or other documentation required).
- Events where the student is representing the University (official note required).
- Major religious holidays/days of worship. Students **MUST** notify the instructor **IN WRITING** of all such holidays during the first week of the semester to assure being excused.
- Military duties.
- Any other circumstances which the instructor finds reasonable cause for nonattendance (these are very special cases and will be determined as excusable after your instructor discusses it with Dr. Shenoy).

NOTE: All doctor's notes WILL be verified!

*Students missing assignments due to an excused absence bear the responsibility of providing the documentation for the excuse within **7 calendar days** following the period of the excused absence (except where prior notification is required), and arranging for making up the missed work.*

Documentation for absences due to illnesses:

- In case of an illness that requires you to be absent from class but does not require a visit to the doctor (Tier 1): Please provide an "Explanatory Statement for Absence from Class" (PDF posted on Canvas). ***This mode of notification for an excused absence will be accepted only ONCE during the semester.***
- In case of Tier 2 and Tier 3 illnesses (those that require a visit to the doctor): Please provide written evidence of having visited the doctor.

- If you have an illness that requires you to miss classes periodically throughout the semester, please provide a doctor's letter stating the same **at the earliest once you become aware of the condition**. Such situations may need special accommodations through the Disabilities Resource Center.

Excused Absences for Military Duties: If a student is required to be absent for one-fifth or less of the required course interactions (e.g., class meetings) due to military duties, the following shall apply:

1. Once a student is aware of a call to duty, the student shall provide a copy of the military orders to the Director of the Veterans Resource Center. The student shall also provide the Director with a list of his/her courses and instructors.
2. The Director will verify the orders with the appropriate military authority, and on behalf of the military student, notify each Instructor of Record via Department Letterhead as to the known extent of the absence.
3. The Instructor of Record shall not penalize the student's absence in any way and shall provide accommodations and timeframes so that the student can make up missed assignments, quizzes, and tests in a mutually agreed upon manner.

Verification of Absences

Students may be asked to verify their excuses in order for them to be considered acceptable. Instructors may request "appropriate verification" when students claim an excused reason for a missed deadline because of illness, or death in the family. Appropriate notification of University-related trips is required prior to the trip when feasible if the trip interferes with completion of assignments and/or exams, and in no case more than one week after the deadline. Submitting forged or altered documentation or providing information that is substantially incorrect to excuse an absence is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT EXCESSIVE ABSENCES IN LAB

In-person participation in labs is critical to achieving the learning outcomes of the course. If a student has **excused absences of 4 or more lab sessions (i.e. more than 3)**, the student could receive an "I" (Incomplete) in the course. It is the student's responsibility to provide all necessary documentation to support the reason(s) for the absences, *failing which the absences will be considered unexcused*. If a student has **unexcused absences of 4 or more lab sessions (i.e. more than 3)**, the student could receive an "E" in the course.

Making up missed labs

- Students missing labs due to excused absences can make up the lab by attending another section after obtaining permission from their TA.
- Students who are unable to attend another section must attend a **make-up lab in the week of 4/6/2026** during their regular lab time. Students will be given a make-up assignment to complete during this time.
- Failure to provide documentation for the excused absence within 1 week of the absence will lead to the absence being treated as unexcused.

Laboratory Attire

OSHA-regulated attire is required for ALL **laboratory and field exercises**. This includes full-length pants/ skirts which cover your legs until the ankles, clothes that cover the entire torso (i.e. no exposed midriffs), and closed-toed shoes. If you are found to be violating these rules, you will be asked to leave the class and your absence from class will be considered an unexcused absence, incurring all the loss of points associated with unexcused absences.

Outdoor Laboratory Attire

For lab sessions that occur outdoors (EREC; see lab schedule), in addition to OSHA regulations, ***students are required to wear full sleeved shirts that cover the entire arms, and full length pants/ skirts that cover the legs down to the ankles, and shoes that cover the entire feet from heel to toes.*** Students should check the weather forecast before each outdoor lab so that they can dress accordingly.

NOTE: Please wear clothes that can withstand rough use. You are advised to bring an extra set of clothes in case you get wet or muddy, or your clothes get covered in burs.

BIO 325 Ecology Laboratory Schedule and Important Dates

Week of...	Location	Lab chapter
1/12/2026		Labs do not meet Homework 1: Watch Introduction video ; due midnight of Friday, 1/16 for all sections Work on Homework 2 ; due midnight of Friday, 1/16 for all sections
1/19/2026		Labs do not meet Homework 1: Watch Introduction video (if not yet done); due midnight of Friday, 1/16 for all sections Work on Homework 2 (if not yet done); due midnight of Friday, 1/16 for all sections
1/26/2026	MDS	Lab 1: Climate and Biomes PRE-LAB QUIZ 1: Climate and Biomes in class
2/2/2026	MDS	Lab 2: Dominance and Aggression in Animal Social Groups PRE-LAB QUIZ 2: Dominance and Aggression in Animal Social Groups in class
2/9/2026	MDS	Homework 3 due midnight before day of lab Lab 3: Human Population Dynamics PRE-LAB QUIZ 3: Human Population Dynamics in class
2/16/2026	MDS	Lab 4.1: Plant Physiological Trade-offs Part 1 PRE-LAB QUIZ 4.1: Plant Physiological Trade-offs in class
2/23/2026	MDS	Lab 4.2: Plant Physiological Trade-offs Part 2 PRE-LAB QUIZ 4.2: Plant Physiological Trade-offs in class (based on previous week's lab work)
3/2/2026	EREC	Lab 5.1: Optimal Foraging Theory Part 1 PRE-LAB QUIZ 5.1: Optimal Foraging Theory in class

3/9/2026	MDS	Lab 5.2: Optimal Foraging Theory Part 2 PRE-LAB QUIZ 5.1: Optimal Foraging Theory in class (based on previous week's lab work)
3/16/2026		Spring Break: no labs
3/23/2026	EREC	Lab 6.1: Why Invasive Plants Succeed Part 1 PRE-LAB QUIZ 6.1: Why invasive plants succeed in class
3/30/2026	MDS	Homework 4 due midnight before day of lab Lab 6.2: Why Invasive Plants Succeed Part 2 PRE-LAB QUIZ 6.2: Why invasive plants succeed in class (based on previous week's lab work)
4/6/2026	MDS	Make-up Lab for students that need make-ups; no lab for other students
4/13/2026	EREC	Lab 7.1: Plant and Animal Diversity Part 1 PRE-LAB QUIZ 7.1: Plant and Animal Diversity Part 1 in class
4/20/2026	MDS	Lab 7.2: Plant and Animal Diversity Part 2 PRE-LAB QUIZ 7.1: Plant and Animal Diversity Part 1 in class (based on previous week's lab work)

Meeting Location: Labs that occur at EREC are outdoor labs. Please dress accordingly.

This schedule is subject to change. Students will be duly notified in case of any changes.

Outdoor field labs will occur regardless of weather. However, if the instructor decides that the weather conditions are unsafe or counter-productive to gathering data on any particular day, the lab may be replaced with an indoor exercise. *In these cases, it will not be possible to inform students ahead of time as the decision will be taken just prior to the start of the lab.* Students will not be penalized for lack of preparation for the replacement lab.