



Course SCI 5324: Ecology
Professor Cynthia E. Ledbetter
Term Summer 2007
Meetings Online + University + Field Trips (See schedule)

Professor's Contact Information

Office Phone 972-883-2496
Office Location FN3.308
Email Address ledbeter@utdallas.edu
Office Hours By appointment
Other Information

General Course Information

Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, & other restrictions Access to WebCT; access to the Internet

Hands-on activities explore the properties and qualities of water through traditional and digital sampling methods. Designed for teachers, this inquiry-based course addresses technology, teaching, and environmental science standards in the context of real-world constructivist practice.

Course Description

Studies in the university classroom (required on-campus meetings), local field settings (5 required field trips), and on-line (~10 independent study modules) develop critical thinking skills and collaborative creativity through individual experience that transfers directly into the classroom.

The objective of this course is for you to learn about environmental science in a range of natural environments. You will produce a field notebook, a field report, a lesson plan, and discussion replies that show your increase in content knowledge, pedagogical knowledge, and ability to apply new knowledge to your teaching.

Learning Outcomes

Field Notebook (spiral lined or unlined, your choice)
Microsoft Word[®]
Microsoft Excel

Required Texts & Materials

Suggested Texts, Readings, & Materials

Field guides for Texas flora and geology (available at used book stores)

Assignments & Academic Calendar

5/29/07 – 6/10/07 Online Lessons: Abiotic and biotic factors that affect the biomes of N. Texas
6/11/07 Science, pedagogy, technology of teaching about lacustrine systems
6/12/07 Field work: Lacustrine Systems
6/13/07 Policy Research (topographic maps, city information, etc.)
6/14/07 Follow-up: Data analysis of lacustrine systems
6/15/07 Science, pedagogy, technology of teaching about prairie restoration
6/18/07 Field work: Prairie Restoration
6/19/07 Follow-up: Data analysis of prairie restoration
6/20/07 Science, pedagogy, technology of teaching about urban fauna
6/21/07 Field work: Urban Flora/fauna
6/22/07 Follow-up: Data analysis of urban flora/fauna
6/25/07 Science, pedagogy, technology of teaching about water quality/quantity
6/26/07 Field work: Water Quality
6/27/07 Follow-up: Data analysis of water quality
6/28/07 Science, pedagogy, technology of teaching about riparian systems
6/29/07 Field work: Riparian Systems
7/2/07 Follow-up: Concluding comments, final approval of field reports and lesson plans
Field book due
7/3/07 – 7/23/07 Examination of local, state and national environmental policy

7/24/07

Final projects (field report and lesson plan) due

Course Policies

Grading (credit) Criteria	Projects will be graded using rubrics that students will find within the WebCT course shell. Objective quizzes are within the online modules and give immediate feedback. Discussion board responses are graded subjectively based on the thoughtfulness of the responses to the questions. Field books will be graded based on completeness. Detailed descriptions of projects and grading procedures are within the WebCT course shell.
Late Work	Fieldwork will have to be made up on your own, with field notes, data collection, and field questions answered as if you participated in the field trip.
Class Attendance	All students are expected to work through online modules by deadlines provided within the WebCT course shell. Face-to-face meetings are required, as are field trips.
Classroom Citizenship	Everyone is expected to bring a positive attitude to class and to maintain professional interactions with all participants.
Field Trip Policies	Participants are to arrive at the field site, ready to work, at the appointed time. See the schedule within the WebCT course shell. Also found there are attire and materials requirements.
Student Conduct and Discipline	<p>The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations, which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, <i>A to Z Guide</i>, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.</p> <p>The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the <i>Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3</i>, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's <i>Handbook of Operating Procedures</i>. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).</p> <p>A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.</p>
Academic Integrity	<p>The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrates a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.</p> <p>Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.</p> <p>Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.</p>
Email Use	

	<p>The University of Texas at Dallas 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 university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.</p>
Withdrawal from Class	<p>The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.</p>
Student Grievance Procedures	<p>Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's <i>Handbook of Operating Procedures</i>.</p> <p>In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.</p> <p>Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.</p>
Incomplete Grades	<p>As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of F.</p>
Disability Services	<p>The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is: The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22 PO Box 830688 Richardson, Texas 75083-0688</p>

	<p>(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)</p> <p>Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.</p> <p>It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.</p>
<p>Religious Holy Days</p>	<p>The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.</p> <p>The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.</p> <p>If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.</p>
<p>Off-Campus Instruction and Course Activities</p>	<p>Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm. Additional information is available from the office of the school dean.</p>

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.