

**Environmental Studies 24 – General Ecology  
Course Syllabus Summer Session 2016**

Instructor: Myra Finkelstein, E-mail: myraf@ucsc.edu  
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Office Hours: 12-1pm Monday & 12-1pm Wednesday (or by appointment)

**All Course Materials Will Be Available on Ecommons. Contact me if you encounter difficulty with access.**

**Text (required):** Elements of Ecology 9th Edition (2014) by R. L. Smith & T. M. Smith, Benjamin Cummings Publisher. Books will be available on Reserve in the Science Library.

**Expectations:** Students are required to read assigned chapters, attend all lectures on Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 9 to 11:30am in Social Sciences 2 Rm 167 and participate in all assignments/exercises (take home & during lecture) as noted below.

**Grading:** There will be two midterm examinations (15% each) and a final exam (30%). All students will write a hypothesis paper, including submitting a draft (5%) and final product (10%) and participate in assignments/exercises (25%).

Late assignments: Non-excused late assignments will receive an automatic 5% deduction on the total possible score with an additional 1% deduction for each additional day late.

Extra-credit: Students will be able to earn extra credit equal to 2% of their final grade for attending all lectures **on time**, participating in class exercises, and having no late assignments.

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June 20<sup>nd</sup>: Introduction & Course Logistics, The Nature of Ecology (Chapter 1); The Physical Environment - Climate (Chapter 2); ***hypothesis paper assignment***

June 22<sup>th</sup>: ***field exercise at UCSC Natural Reserve with Alex Jones***; The Aquatic Environment (Chapter 3); Terrestrial Environment (Chapter 4)

June 24<sup>th</sup>: (*finish Chapter 4 if needed*); Ecological Genetics, Adaptation and Natural Selection (Chapter 5); Plant Adaptations to the Environment (Chapter 6)

June 27<sup>th</sup>: Animal Adaptations to the Environment (Chapter 7); **UCSC Greenhouse** ([http://bio.classes.ucsc.edu/bio175/Greenhouse\\_directions.pdf](http://bio.classes.ucsc.edu/bio175/Greenhouse_directions.pdf)) ***Greenhouse visit and exercise***; Midterm review

**June 29<sup>th</sup>: Midterm 1; special lecture – using science for conservation**

July 1<sup>st</sup>: Properties of populations (Chapter 8); Population Growth (Chapter 9), Life History Patterns (Chapter 10); ***mark-recapture exercise***

July 4<sup>th</sup>: **UCSC HOLIDAY!!**

July 6<sup>th</sup>: Intraspecific Population Regulation (Chapter 11); Species Interactions (Chapter 12); ***Draft hypothesis papers due, competition worksheet assignment and in class exercise***

July 8<sup>th</sup>: Interspecific competition (Chapter 13); Predation (Chapter 14), Midterm review, ***competition worksheet assignment due***

**July 11<sup>th</sup>: Midterm 2; 10:30-11:30: UCSC Natural History Museum visit and short assignment**

July 13<sup>th</sup>: Parasitism (Chapter 15); Community Structure and Dynamics (Chapters 16, 17)

July 15<sup>th</sup>: ***Brad Keitt Director of Conservation, Island Conservation guest lecture***; Community Structure and Dynamics (Chapter 18), **UCSC Natural History Museum short assignment due**

July 18<sup>th</sup>: Landscape Dynamics (Chapter 19); Ecosystem Energetics (Chapter 20); **Final hypothesis papers due**

July 20<sup>nd</sup>: Large-Scale Patterns of Biological Diversity (Chapter 26); Decomposition and Nutrient Recycling (Chapter 21); final exam review

**July 22<sup>th</sup>: FINAL EXAM**

**KEY DATES:**     *Assignments due at beginning of lecture unless otherwise noted*

June 27 <sup>th</sup>	Deadline to drop class
June 29 <sup>th</sup>	Midterm 1
July 6 <sup>th</sup>	Draft hypothesis papers due
July 8 <sup>th</sup>	Competition worksheet due, deadline to withdraw from class
July 11 <sup>th</sup>	Midterm 2
July 15 <sup>th</sup>	UCSC Natural History Museum short assignment due
July 18 <sup>th</sup>	Final hypothesis papers due <i>with edited drafts attached</i>
July 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b> 9-11:30am Soc Sci 2 167

**Support Resources:**

Disabilities Resource Center and Learning Support Services and CAPS (Counseling and Psychological Services) are open and active all summer. Please let me know if you need help accessing any of these support services.

**Academic Advising:**

Academic advising is offered all summer; hours will vary by college. Students can contact their colleges to find out when advising is being offered or visiting [advising.ucsc.edu](http://advising.ucsc.edu).

**Other important dates:**

Withdraw Deadline (no refund): July 8<sup>th</sup>

Deadline to Change Grade Option: July 1<sup>st</sup>