Biology 489, Fall 2014

Population Ecology


Course description: Areas to be covered will include traditional topics—population dynamics, demography competition, predator-prey interactions, life-history theory—as well as recent developments in the field—for example, spatial interactions and metapopulation dynamics. Analytical, theoretical, experimental, and modeling approaches to the study of populations will be considered. Readings will be assigned from the textbook and the primary literature.

Assigned work: There will be three exams—two midterms and a final. The final exam will be given during the 2-hour final exam period, with a strong bias towards material presented after the second midterm.

Homework assignments will be handed out at irregular intervals throughout the semester to reinforce the ideas presented in class. Homework will be due one week after assignment, unless indicated otherwise.

Critical information regarding the course will be delivered by the website, e.g., reading and homework assignments. Check early and often!

Evaluation .................................................................................................................................................. Proportion of Grade

   Each midterm (TBA) .................................................................................................................................. 25% (x2)

   Final ......................................................................................................................................................... 25%
      • *Monday December 15 at 9:45 (in classroom)*

   Homework (TBA) ....................................................................................................................................... 25%
      • *Due one week after assignment, unless otherwise indicated*
**Other useful textbooks:**

Silvertown, J. and D. Charlesworth. 2001. *Introduction to plant population biology.* 4th edition, Blackwell Science. (this could be the text if this course were plant population ecology)


