

**BIOL 6720/6010 STREAM ECOLOGY
SECTION A
FALL SEMESTER 2014
DEPT. OF BIOLOGY;
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES;
VALDOSTA STATE UNIV.
CREDIT HOURS: 4**

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Matthew Waters

OFFICE: BSC 1106

OFFICE HOURS – T/Th 10-11, 2-3:30

PHONE – 333-5760

EMAIL: mwaters@valdosta.edu

LECTURE HOURS: T:R 11-12:15 BSC 1025

LAB HOURS: M 8:30-11:20AM BSC 2073

REQUIRED TEXT: Streams: Their Ecology and Life, Colbert E. Cushing and J. David Allen, ISBN: 0-12-050340-9

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An overview of the stream ecosystem with emphasis on the interaction between abiotic (flow, temperature, carbon, nutrients, habitat) and biotic (fish, macroinvertebrates, microbes, primary producers) factors. **Prerequisites:** Acceptance into Graduate School

COURSE OBJECTIVES/EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES:

Valdosta State University (VSU) Department of Biology educational outcomes for this course include: numbers 1, 2, 3 (in part), and 5. University (VSU) educational outcomes for this course include: numbers 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8.

TENTATIVE LECTURE SCHEDULE:

TOPIC	Chapter
Rivers as Dynamic Physical Entities	1
Abiotic Factors	2
Energy Resources	3
Algae	12
Higher Plants	13
Macroinvertebrates	14-17
Feeding roles and Food webs	4
Ecology of Rivers	5
Human Impacts	6
Local Rivers	
The ACF River Basin	

We will cover many of these chapters, not necessarily all; actual coverage depends on the class, and/or unforeseen professor absences.

LECTURE EXAMS

I will announce lecture exams AT LEAST A WEEK IN ADVANCE.

Lecture exams will be essay, short answer, and vocabulary definitions. Exams are not strictly comprehensive, although you will need to know the previous material to answer some questions on the future exam(s). Later topics and concepts build on previously discussed material; thus, the course is much like a story that builds on previous chapters.

LABORATORY: More information about laboratory requirements/grading will be given as a separate handout.

COURSE POLICIES

You are expected to attend all lectures and labs, but attendance is not considered in grading policies. If a lecture is missed, **you** are responsible for obtaining any notes and handouts given that day. Reading of the appropriate lecture chapters and any lab materials should be completed prior to coming to class.

Assigned text material may be on the lecture exams; I will inform you during lecture as to the specific topics, tables, figures, and/or text pages for which you will be responsible.

GRADING POLICIES/ASSESSMENT

Lecture:

A. Three (3) lecture exams will be given during the semester, including the final exam. The final exam will **not** be strictly comprehensive (as noted earlier). Each exam is worth 100 points **Make-up exams are not an automatic right;** you must notify me within **24** hours of the missed exam, and provide a **valid reason**, or you will forfeit your opportunity for a make-up. The professor is the final judge of what is an acceptable excuse. You can only make up **one** exam.

B. We will read multiple articles from the current literature. I will provide a sheet used to assess the student's reading of the papers. These sheets must be turned in at the beginning of the class that the article is discussed and will not be accepted during or after class.

C. Students will be assessed on responses to reflection questions and journal entries maintained throughout the semester.

D. Graduate students will give a 30 minute seminar outlining 3 key papers on one river or one stream ecological concept. Topic for the presentation must be made by Midterm.

Lecture:	3 Tests (100 points)	300
	Journal reflection papers	50
	Blog/Journal	40
	Presentation	100
Lecture Total		490

Laboratory: Total lab points are converted to the equivalent of $\frac{1}{4}$ of lecture exam points (130 points possible). Thus, **lab is worth 25% of your final grade to coincide with a 4 credit hour upper division biology course with lab.** Lecture and lab are **not** separate grades; one grade is given for the course.

You must turn off CELL PHONES, PAGERS, or ANY OTHER TYPE OF COMMUNICATION DEVICE BEFORE ENTERING LECTURE AND LAB
Anyone accessing these devices DURING AN EXAM will be given a zero for that exam grade. The student may be subject to further discipline, up to and including, permanent dismissal and failure of the class.

Midterm: Thursday, October 9 is the last day to drop the class with a passing grade (WP) regardless of your point total. You cannot drop the class after midterm unless there are extenuating circumstances that must be acceptable to the Professor, Biology Department Head, Dean of Arts and Sciences, and the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Final grades are determined as a percentage of total points possible (620):
558 and above (90-100%) =A
496-557 (80-89%) =B
434-497 (70-79%) =C
372-433 (60-69%) =D
371 and below (below 60%) =F

Extra Credit: I DO NOT give extra credit. Please do not ask!

Cheating: Cheating is not permitted. Any student caught cheating on a lecture or lab exam will receive a failing grade (**F**) for the course, and will be reported to the Dean of Student Affairs. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: possessing written information on paper, body parts, clothes, etc. pertaining to the exam; accessing cell phones, pagers, or other electronic communication devices; unauthorized entry to the lab after a practical has been set up; as well as other means not specifically listed above.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA; also known as the Buckley Amendment): *By law*, it is not legal to release personal information about an individual to others. This means that grades, averages, test scores, and other information can only be released to that individual; thus, **exam scores, point totals, or final grades will not be issued in any unsecure manner, such as being posted, given verbally via telephone, or emailed. This is to ensure your privacy.** Emails inquiring about the matters listed above will be politely ignored.

Students with Disabilities: Students requiring special classroom accommodations or modifications because of **documented** disabilities should discuss these needs with the professor at the beginning of the semester. Disabled students not registered with the Access Office for Students with Disabilities should contact the program officer. Phone numbers are listed in the Campus Directory.

Discrimination and Sexual Harassment: No student shall engender or create an atmosphere of discrimination based on race, ethnicity, religious beliefs, gender, sexual orientation, or other factors. No student shall sexually harass any individual(s). Discrimination and/or sexual harassment will not be tolerated in the classroom or laboratory.

Plagiarism: The Biology Department policy on plagiarism can be accessed via the departmental website. It should be printed, read, and understood.