**Biology 211–10 & 11**  
**Biodiversity, Ecology and Conservation Biology**

**College of Charleston, Department of Biology, Fall 2017**

**Lecture:** 8:30 – 9:45 am. T/R; HWWE 307  
**Discussion:**  
**D10** – 10:00 am - 1:00 pm T HWEA 302  
**D11** – 10:00 am - 1:00 pm R HWEA 302

**Instructor:** Dr. Daniel McGlinn  
**Office:** 203 HWWE  
**Office hours:** 1-2 pm R or email to make an appointment  
**Email:** mcglinndj@cofc.edu  
**Phone:** 843-953-0190

**Course Description:** This course focuses on biology at the level of the whole organism and above, including how organisms interact with their environment, how organisms are related, and how human activity affects the diversity of life on Earth. During the semester, you will be introduced to three areas of focus: (1) population biology, including population ecology and evolution; (2) interactions among organisms and their environments at the community, ecosystem and biosphere levels, and (3) biodiversity and the study of how groups of organisms are related by common descent.

**Course Structure:** Doing biology requires understanding concepts and using practical skills to develop and test those concepts. To address both of these features, this course includes two essential components – lecture and discussion – which contribute to a single grade (see p. 5).

**Lecture** will introduce you to key concepts in ecology, biodiversity and conservation biology as well as examples of the research involved in developing and testing these concepts.

**Discussion** will help you develop many of the practical skills used in doing science. You will gain experience examining primary scientific literature; organizing, visualizing and analyzing data; identifying research questions and designing experiments; and presenting scientific information in a written scientific paper, a poster, and an oral presentation. For many students, discussion is the most valuable part of the course.

**Required Text:** Biological Science 5th edition. S. Freeman

**Prerequisites:** Biology 111, 112 – **Please note:** It is highly advised that students earn at least a C in Biology 111 and 112 before enrolling in Biology 211. Please see your instructor if you have any questions or concerns regarding your preparedness for this course.

*Please read this syllabus carefully and keep it for future reference. The information in this document is important to your success in this course.*
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**COURSE POLICIES**

**Lecture** – You are expected to attend every lecture. Attendance and participation will contribute to your grade. In addition, it is very difficult to succeed in this course without regular attendance in lecture. If you must miss lecture, be sure to get help with the notes from a classmate; *online lecture notes are not a substitute for attending lecture!* All students are encouraged to meet with the instructor during office hours to ask questions. I’m always willing to take time to help you better understand the course material!

**Discussion** – You will conduct two main projects during discussion. Some of the work on these projects will be completed in pairs or small groups. Part of your grade will be based on working effectively within your group, including peer evaluations of your work. However, you will complete most assignments individually, and most of your grade will be based on your own work, for which you alone are responsible. *You are required to attend every 3-hour discussion for its duration,* and you are expected to arrive on time and prepared to carry out the day’s work. Attendance and participation will contribute to your grade.

**Participation and conduct** – Your conduct during lecture and discussion is expected to be respectful of your classmates and instructor, the learning environment and yourself. This means giving your full attention to whomever has the floor and staying on topic during discussions. Please do not disrupt class by using cell phones or other electronic devices (unless for Poll-everywhere), by leaving early or arriving late, or by using the bathroom excessively. Participation in lecture will be evaluated in part on participation of polled questions. You can reply to polls via txt message, smart phone app, laptop, or note card depending on your preference. *Specifically, your participation grade for the class will depend on:* online polls, class preparedness, attendance, tardiness, your verbal engagement with the instructor during class, proper device conduct, and your ability to conduct group work.

**Discussions articles and assignments** – Over the semester you will read several articles that will be the basis for class discussions, both in lecture and discussion. Your grade for these discussions will be based on attendance, active participation, and completion of discussion question (DQ) assignments. Articles and DQ assignments will be available via OAKS, as will detailed guidelines on how to prepare for discussions.

**Exams** – You will be tested on lecture material and assigned readings. Study guides will be provided before each of the three midterm exams. You are encouraged to study in groups – you will learn more if you quiz each other to test your understanding and ability to apply concepts.

Exams cannot be made up except in the case of a true medical emergency *suffered on the day of the exam.* Other legitimate, unavoidable academic conflicts are at the instructors’ discretion and must be approved *well in advance.* *Extracurricular activities and travel plans do not qualify – please plan accordingly.* Make-up exams will only be given for excused absences with instructor approval, and must be taken before the exam is handed back to the class and no more than three days after the scheduled exam time.

**Assignments** – Assignments must be turned in on time for full credit. Late assignments will lose 5% of the total possible points per day that the assignment is late, until the assignment is handed back or discussed in class, at which point zero points will be recorded. If you are unable to turn in
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**COURSE ASSESSMENT**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Portion of Course</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Percentage of Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>two mid-term exams</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>final exam (half cumulative)</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Participation (polleverywhere, preparedness, attendance, verbally engage in class, proper device conduct)</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td><strong>50</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>project 1 (scientific poster)</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>project 2 (scientific paper)</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td></td>
<td>project 2 (oral presentation)</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>weekly assignments</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Participation (preparedness, group participation, attendance, verbally engage in class, proper device conduct)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td><strong>50</strong></td>
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Last day to drop with Grade of “W” October 27.

**Extra Credit**

You can earn up to 3% of your final grade in extra credit by completing 3 additional assignments. Each extra credit assignment you complete will provide 1 percentage point on your final course grade up to a total of 3 additional percentage points. There are two options for the assignment:

Option 1: Attend a biology science seminar. You must attend the seminar and post a typed 5 sentence summary of the seminar which also includes a description of what you learned from this seminar. Here is the link to relevant seminar series

Option 2: Find a popular science article online and create a three slide powerpoint summary. In addition to the science be sure to include the article's relevance to this course, any relevant images / graphics, and the URL. Place the powerpoint file into the extra credit dropbox folder on OAKS.