

BIOL100 - NATURAL HISTORY & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE - Spring 2008

- go to course website for copies, corrections and updates -

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Dr. Leslie Seiger

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Tel (619) 388-2425

Office: I-300 room 306

Mailbox in K-202

Office Hours in I-300 room 306

Office Hours in I-300 room 306

Mon & Wed 2:00 – 3:00 pm and 4:30 – 5:15 pm

Tue & Thu 10:00 – 11:00 am

other times by appointment

***** no Friday office hours *****

Website

<http://homework.sdmesa.edu/lseiger/>

COURSE INFORMATION

DAY CLASSES: CRN 91187 & CRN 91149

Lecture: Tuesday & Thursday 11:10 am - 12:35 pm in room I-105

Lab: CRN 91187 Tuesday 1:00 pm – 4:05 pm in room I-119

CRN 91149 Thursday 1:00 pm – 4:05 pm in room I-119

Catalog Course Description

Lecture topics include basic principles of ecology, the nature of the physical environment, the aquatic environments, the terrestrial environments and population dynamics. This is a community approach, fitting organisms into their proper role in nature. The laboratory is coordinated with lectures emphasizing the plant and animal communities of Southern California. Several field trips will be required, some on the weekend. **4 units.** Letter Grade. Student may petition for Credit/No Credit. **Course Advisory:** completion of ENGL 051 and ENGL 056, each with a grade of "C" or better, or equivalent, or W5/R5.

Course Objectives

The objectives of the course are to introduce the student to

1. principles of ecology
1. features of major biotic communities
1. the natural history of biotic communities and common plants and animals of San Diego County
1. key factors influencing local and other biotic communities
1. the consequences of human impacts on the natural environment

Course Outline And Scope

Topics to be covered are provided in the attached lecture and lab schedules.

Field Trip Requirements:

Field trips are a required component of this course. Field trips will be conducted during regularly scheduled lab hours. Transportation to and from the field trip site is the responsibility of the student. Details, directions and instructions of what to wear and bring will be provided before each field trip. Please see "Accommodation of Disability" and "Classroom Behavior And Student Code Of Conduct."

Accommodation Of Disability:

Students with disabilities who may need academic accommodations should notify the professor immediately.

Required Textbooks and Supplies:

1. **“Understanding the Life of Point Loma”** (2004) by Cabrillo National Monument Foundation paperback ISBN 0-941032-08-6
2. Starr & Taggart **“Evolution of Life”** ISBN 0-495-12579-2. *Also on reserve at the LRC.*
3. Starr & Taggart **“Diversity of Life”** ISBN 0-495-12577-6. *Also on reserve at the LRC.*
4. Starr & Taggart **“Ecology & Behavior”** ISBN 0-495-12574-1. *Also on reserve at the LRC.*
These are subsets of Starr & Taggart’s “Biology: The Unity and Diversity of Life” Published by Cengage (formerly Thomson, Brooks/ Cole). 11th edition is current, but 9th and 10th will suffice.
5. Other **required** reading material provided by the instructor. I will discuss this on the first day of class, and the information is also available on the course website under “Assigned Reading.”
6. A **free** online subscription The New York Times is required: www.nytimes.com/
7. eChapter 16: Geology and Nonrenewable Mineral Resources, 14th Edition – **\$3.99** - see link from class website for how to get this. *Also on reserve at the LRC.*
8. Admission may be required for some field trips – lab instructor will advise.
9. You may need to purchase a special semester pass for the zoo unless you have a zoo membership. The cost is \$15.

Internet Resources: There is a website for this course. Please check it for class updates, handouts and other information. You can access it from my home page <http://homework.sdmesa.edu/lseiger/> You also can find my homepage through the Mesa website’s alphabetical list of faculty and staff.

STUDENT RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Classroom and Field Trip Behavior And Student Code Of Conduct

1. It is expected that students will conduct themselves within the standards outlined in the student code of conduct, disciplinary procedure and student due process. Please refer to Policy 3100, which is linked to my website, the Mesa College website, in the current college catalogue, and also at the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs in H-500.
2. Students are expected to come to class in a timely manner, prepared for the day’s work . Full participation for the **entire class period** in activities, class exercises and discussions **is required**.
3. Please **turn off all cell phones**, pagers etc. You will be released from class with an unexcused absence for making or accepting telephone calls or text messages in the classroom.
4. On field trips:
 - (1) Obey all posted speed limits and watch for pedestrians.
 - (2) Cell phones are to be off (see above).
 - (3) Smoking poses a health and fire danger and is absolutely forbidden on site.
 - (4) Do not walk off the trail or collect any specimens of any type unless specifically directed to by the instructor.
5. Disciplinary action will be taken by the instructor as necessary.

Attendance

6. **Attendance is required.** Students may be dropped from the class for unexcused absences exceeding 6% of the course (____ hours). Students must be dropped for unexcused absences exceeding 12% of the course (see college catalogue).
7. **It is the student's responsibility to make up missed material.** This includes, but is not limited to, obtaining missed lecture notes from another student (not from the instructor), and finding out about any modifications of schedules or assignments announced during class time.

Tardiness

8. Tardiness and early departure are disruptive to the class and will be discouraged. Once you arrive, please remain seated until the lecture is over. The instructor will take steps to discourage tardiness or early departure as necessary.
9. The instructor is not required to accommodate students arriving late. If a tardy student comes to class to take an exam after another student has already taken the exam and left the room, the tardy student cannot take that exam. If a student is late for a lab practical, that student will not be allowed into the classroom until the exam is over. Once an exam begins there are no bathroom or other breaks.

Withdrawal

Please discuss your plans to withdraw from class with me as I may be able to provide options that would allow you to continue the class.

10. It is your responsibility to officially drop the class if you stop attending. You must drop using ClassTalk or other approved procedures. Not doing so will result in a grade of "F."

Important Dates

February 8	(Friday)	Last day to process and pay for an add code or drop with no "W" recorded
February 11	(Monday)	Last day to drop and get a refund
March 3	(Monday)	Last day to file a petition for credit/no credit option
April 11	(Friday)	Withdrawal deadline – no drops accepted after this date

You must file for withdrawal to avoid a grade of "F"

Honest Academic Conduct

11. Academic dishonesty will result in a grade of zero for the assignment and will be reported to the School Dean and the Disciplinary Officer, and may result in further disciplinary action.

Academic dishonesty includes

- ***cheating***
- ***unauthorized collaboration, and***
- ***plagiarism***

as defined in Policy 3100 <http://www.sdmesa.edu/instruction/policy/index.html>

12. Written assignments will be required to be submitted online to Turnitin.com.

ID: 2145998

CLASS NAME: Natural History DAY Spring 2008

PASSWORD: BIOL100 (case sensitive – must be in CAPS!!!)

GRADING

Grading Policy

A	90%
B	80%
C	70%
D	60%

<u>Assessments</u>	<u>points</u>
LECTURE (75% of total)	
midterm exam 1	100 = 19%
midterm exam 2	100 = 19%
comprehensive final exam	150 = 29%
homework (drop 2)	40 = 8%

LAB (25% of total) **130**
Your lab instructor will determine the lab assessments.

Please advise me if you are a DSPS student or need other accommodations for test taking. Nonnative speakers of English may use a translation dictionary for exams *by prior arrangement*. All students may use the dictionary provided in the classroom during exams.

Lecture exams

may include multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank and short answer. There will be two midterms and a cumulative final. Refer to item (8) under "Tardiness." Once an exam begins there are no bathroom or other breaks. **Missed exams will receive a grade of zero** (see below). No grades are dropped.

Other

Homework assignments will be given most Wednesdays and due at the start of each Monday lecture. Each will be worth 2 points.

Pop quizzes will be given sporadically. Each will be worth 2-5 points.

Missed or late assignments and quizzes will receive a grade of zero. Homework assignments and pop quizzes cannot be made up, but your lowest 2 homework grades and your lowest 2 pop quiz grades will be dropped. Written assignments may be required to be submitted online to Turnitin.com. Your final score will be based on your overall percent with 100% = 40 points.

Extra credit

not available.

MISSED LECTURE EXAMS WILL RECEIVE A GRADE OF ZERO.

- *Exams given during finals week cannot be made up.*
- *No early finals.*
- *For midterm exams 1 and 2, there is a very strict and limited make-up policy described below.*

Because legitimate emergencies sometimes arise, there are a very few circumstances in which a lecture exam may be made up. For that to occur, **the student must take full responsibility for meeting all of the following requirements.** No exceptions will be made.

- (1) There must be a legitimate emergency or illness which can be documented.
- (2) You must ***contact the instructor before the exam*** to make arrangements for a makeup.
- (3) You must provide appropriate ***written documentation*** of your reason for requiring a make-up. These documents must be presented before the make-up exam is taken and will be filed with your class records.
- (4) Your excuse must be valid and your documentation appropriate in the view of the instructor.
- (5) Makeup lecture exams must be made up during the instructor's regularly scheduled office hours within 6 calendar days (4 business days) of the scheduled exam date. Makeup exams may consist of any of the following question formats: oral questions, essay questions, or any format used in regular exams.