Instructor Information

Instructor: M. M. Matute, Ph.D.
Office: Room 239, Little Rock South Campus
Mailbox: Room 251
Hours: Monday to Thursday 1.00 pm - 2.30 pm; Friday 9.00 am - 12.00 pm
Phone: 501 771 6051
Email: mmatute@uaptc.edu

*All emails and telephone calls will receive a response within two business days.

Chair: Mr. Thomas Russell  501-812-2705  trussell@uaptc.edu
Dean: Dr. Marico B. Howe  501 812 2342  mbryanhowe@uaptc.edu

*If your emails and telephone calls do not receive a response within two business days, the appropriate chain of command is above.

Course Information

This is a live course meeting every Tuesday and Thursday for lecture at 9.25.00 AM in Rm 213, Little Rock- South Campus, and meeting every Thursday for lab at 11 AM in Room 209, Little Rock-South Campus.

Catalog Description
This course is an introduction to living organisms and relationships to their environment. The natural history and evolution of the biotic and abiotic, adaptations to the environment, population ecology, interactions, communities and ecosystems, and the biosphere are examined. The effects of climate and geography upon living organisms are investigated. This course includes appropriate field and laboratory investigations in both the terrestrial and aquatic environments. This is a 4 Credit Course, 3 Lecture Hours and 2 Lab Hours (special course fee apply)

Prerequisite: BIOL 1401 with a grade of “C” or better.

Course Materials

3. Instructor Handouts
Mission Statement

University of Arkansas – Pulaski Technical College provides access to high-quality education that promotes student learning and enables individuals to develop to their fullest potential.

Institutional Learning Outcomes and General Education

Institutional Learning Outcomes and General Education

UA-PTC supports a college-wide institutional learning assessment program which concerns effective instructional methods and promotes student learning achievement by assessing:

ILO 1: Information Literacy
ILO 2 Technology Literacy
ILO 3 Communication
ILO 4: Critical Thinking
ILO 5: Quantitative Reasoning
ILO 6: Cultural Awareness
ILO 7: Professionalism

For more information, please consult the following website: https://uaptc.edu/sla

Discipline Learning Outcomes (also Departmental/Program)

The Biology discipline, consistent with the College’s mission and the Division’s objectives, encourages the success of its students in all technical fields and academic disciplines by:

DLO 1. Demonstrating critical and independent thinking through biological investigation
DLO 2. Demonstrating professionalism in communication and collaboration
DLO 3. Analyzing the influence of scientific thought on individuals and society
DLO 4. Demonstrating proper use of biological instrumentation and laboratory techniques

Student Learning / Course Outcomes

At the end of this course the student will explain, describe, discuss, recognize, and/or apply knowledge and understanding of the following:

- CLO 1: Natural History and Evolution; including life on land and life in water, population genetics and natural selection (ILO 3, 4, 5, 6, 7; DLO 2,3)
- CLO 2: Adaptations to the Environment; including temperature, water, energy and nutrient, and social, relations (ILO 3,4,7; DLO 2)
- CLO 3: Population Ecology; including population distribution and abundance, population dynamics, population growth, and life histories (ILO 3, 4, 5, 6, 7; DLO 2,3)
- CLO 4: Interactions; including species interactions and competition, exploitative interactions (predation, herbivory, parasitism, and disease), and mutualism (ILO 3, 4, 6, 7; DLO 2,3)
- CLO 5: Communities and Ecosystems; including species abundance and diversity, species interactions and community structure, primary and secondary production, nutrient cycling and retention, and succession and stability (ILO 3,4; DLO 2,3)
- CLO 6: Research Methods; including design, data collection and analyses, scientific reporting, equipment use and care (ILO 1,2,3,4,5,7; DLO 1,2,4)

Policies

Report a Complaint or Concern

UA-PTC takes very seriously complaints and concerns regarding the institution. Most complaints or concerns of a specific nature should be initiated and resolved at the campus level through normal college processes whenever possible. UA - Pulaski Technical College receives and resolves complaints using a variety of methods. To report a complaint or concern, please follow the link below.

https://www.uaptc.edu/report-a-concern-complaint

UA-PTC Attendance Policy

Education at UA-PTC requires students’ active involvement in the learning process. Thus, students are expected to attend all classes and actively engage in all learning assignments and/or opportunities provided in their classes. Class attendance should be treated as mandatory by all students as attendance will be taken by all instructors during the first two weeks of class. Additionally, a written policy on student attendance that is tied to course objectives and included in a course syllabus will be provided for each course by instructors.

Departmental Attendance Policy

Attendance is required for all course activities at all times

Full participation is required for lab and lecture activities, i.e. partially attending a lab or a lecture is not considered as attendance or participation.

Missing up to 25% of the scheduled labs for the course will result in an F-grade for the course

Missing up to 25% of the scheduled lectures for the course will result in an F-grade for the course

Agencies granting financial assistance may be notified of the violation of the attendance policy by students receiving financial aid.
Course Policies

The UA-PTC Catalog rules and regulations will be enforced in this course at all times.

Please consult the following website for more information: https://www.uaptc.edu/catalog

Professional behavior is required. Punctual attendance and intelligent participation are expected. Particulars as determined by the instructor are detailed in the paragraph below.

Appropriate behavior is expected for all communications, including any notes, email messages, or telephone conversations. Some guidelines for communication are included in this syllabus to help you.

The Pulaski Technical College Student Handbook rules and regulations will be enforced in this class at all times

Student Behavior: Respect each and every one and do the Right Thing

a. No cheating what-so-ever
b. Only class members allowed in class; only course/class related work can be done during class meets
c. No gastronomic activities; no eruption of electronic gadgets
d. Tardiness and moving in and out of class/lab are not acceptable
e. Late submissions are not acceptable; You can only submit a lab for which you were present
f. Ensure that you are recorded as present at all times
g. There will be no extra credit work and no dropping of a scored class activity
h. Communication: All Email communications with the Instructor will be via your UAPTC Student Email; When communicating via email, phone, or note, always indicate your name, course/course number, course section, and days and times of meetings
i. Disregard for the above and Any Other Disruptive Behavior not listed, will result in corrective measures.

Grading Policy

Letter grades will be based on the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90 to 100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 to 89%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 to 79%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 to 69%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 to 59%</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Points Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tested/Graded Activities*</th>
<th>Points Allotment</th>
<th>% Course Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 Lecture Exams</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Lecture Final/Comprehensive</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Papers</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project 1/Terrestrial</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project 2/Aquatic</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab/Field Reports</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Total</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Results and grades of all tested activities will be posted within a week of submission of the activity.

Academic Integrity

It is expected that all students who attend UA-PTC conduct themselves in a manner appropriate for the college experience. Academic integrity is a vital component of collegiate behavior. The UA-PTC catalogue states, “The gaining of knowledge and the practice of honesty go hand-in-hand.”

The catalogue also states, “The responsibility and authority of initiating discipline arising from violations of the rules against dishonesty during the process of the course are vested in the instructor of that course.”

The complete Academic Integrity Policy is in the UA-PTC code of conduct.

Plagiarism is the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own. For example, copying from someone, not citing references in a paper, disguising some other person's work as yours, etc. Students who plagiarize or otherwise engage in academic dishonesty face serious consequences. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, failure on an assignment, grade reduction or course failure, suspension, and possibly dismissal.

Accommodation Policy

Services for Students with Disabilities: UA-PTC is committed to fulfilling all federal requirements as stated in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the American with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Accommodations are available to students who have documented disabilities. Students who request accommodations must register with the Disability Services Office (Main Campus: 501-812-2738 or South Campus: 501-812-2862) and must provide current and relevant documentation.

Students requesting accommodations should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course or as soon as accommodations are approved. It is the student's responsibility to provide their
Accommodation Letter to the instructor. Accommodations are not retroactive and will only be provided once your instructor receives the Accommodation Letter.

**Student Code of Conduct**

All students are expected to abide by the UA-PTC Student Code of Conduct. For the full Student Code of Conduct, access the most current version of the UA-PTC Academic Catalog. [http://uaptc.azurewebsites.net/docs/default-source/course-catalog/2017-18-academic-catalog.pdf?sfvrsn=a08a3038_2](http://uaptc.azurewebsites.net/docs/default-source/course-catalog/2017-18-academic-catalog.pdf?sfvrsn=a08a3038_2)

**Sexual Misconduct**

No person at Pulaski Technical College will, on the basis of gender, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to sex discrimination, sexual harassment or sexual misconduct under any education program or activity. All college administrative policies and procedures regarding sex discrimination, sexual harassment, and sexual misconduct are in compliance with Title IX. Students who feel they are victims of sexual misconduct should contact the UA-PTC Title IX Deputy Coordinator for Students:

Michelle Anderson, Director of Student Life and Leadership  
Campus Center Building Room 216  
501-812-2756  
manderson@uaptc.edu

**Course Evaluations**

Students may be asked to evaluate their instructor and course near the end of the semester. These student evaluations are very important to the improvement in the quality of instruction and course materials. All results are anonymous and shared with the faculty only after the semester is over and grades have been posted.

**Information Literacy**

UA-PTC is committed to the Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education as established by the Association of College and Research Libraries and endorsed by the National Forum on Information Literacy. Therefore, all courses will incorporate an information literacy component so that, by graduation, all students will be able to recognize the need for information, then locate, evaluate, synthesize, and communicate information in an ethical manner. Information literacy encompasses critical thinking, research, media, technology, health, business, and visual literacy skills to produce lifelong learners who can make informed decisions in the workplace and in their personal lives.
## Tentative Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week #</th>
<th>Topic/Chapter</th>
<th>Lab/Field Activity</th>
<th>Testing/Submissions</th>
<th>Assignments Readings Writings Preps</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1      | Introduction to Ecology Chapters 1  
Jan 9, 10, 14, 15                  | Introduction Lab Environment Metric System Lab 1                                                 |                     | Syllabus Chp1 Paper 1                |
| 2      | Life on Land and Life in Water Chapters 2 and 3  
Jan 16, 17, 22, 23              | Lab 2  
The Nature of data Exercise 2  
The process of Science | Lab 1               | Lab 1 Chp, 2, 3 Paper 1              |
| 3      | Population Genetics and Natural Selection Chapter 4  
Jan 24, 28, 29, 30             | Project 1  
Forest Soil Sampling 1 Also Exercise 3                                      | Paper 1 Lab 2       | P1 Sampling Chp 4 Exam 1             |
| 4      | Temperature and Water Relations Chapters 5 and 6  
Jan 31, Feb 4, 5, 6             | Forest Soil Analyses 1                                                            | Exam 1 Chp 1-4-4    | P1 Analysis Chp 5, 6 Paper 2         |
| 5      | Energy, Nutrient, and Social, Relations Chapters 7 and 8  
Feb 7, 11, 12, 13             | Project 2  
Lake Water Sampling 1 Also Exercise 8                                       |                     | P2 Sampling Chp 7, 8 Paper 2 Exam    |
| 6      | Population Distribution and Abundance Chapter 9  
Feb 14, 18, 19, 20             | Lake Water Analyses 1                                                             |                     | Lab 3 Chp 9 Paper 2 P2 Analysis      |
| 7      | Population Dynamics Population Growth Chapters 10 and 11  
Feb 21, 25, 26, 27          | Lab 3  
Exercise 9 Microcommunity Assessment                                         |                     | Chp 10, 11 Paper 2 Exam 2            |
| 8      | Species Interactions and Competition Chapter 13  
Feb 28, March 4, 5, 6         | Project 1  
Forest Soil Sampling 2                                                         | Exam 2 Chapter 5-8 Lab 3 | Chp 13 Paper 2 P1 Sampling           |
<p>| 9      | Exploitative Interactions Predation, Herbivory, Parasitism, Disease          | Forest Soil Analyses 2                                                           | Paper 2             | Chp 14, 15 P1 Analysis               |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Topic Description</th>
<th>Exam/Analysis</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mutualism; Species Abundance and Diversity</td>
<td>Project 2 Lake Water Sampling 2</td>
<td>Chp 15, 16 P2 Sampling Exam 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Species Interactions and Community Structure</td>
<td>Lake Water Analyses 2</td>
<td>P2 Analysis Chp 17 Exam 3 Lab 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Primary and Secondary Production</td>
<td>Lab 4 Exercise 10 Sampling Plant Communities</td>
<td>Exam 3 Chp 18 Chp 19 Soil and Water Analyses Exam 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Nutrient Cycling and Retention</td>
<td>Project 1 Forest Soil Sampling 3 Project 2 Lake Water Sampling 3</td>
<td>Lab 4 Chp 19 Soil and Water Analyses Exam 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Review for Exam 4</td>
<td>Forest Soil Analyses 3 Lake Water Analyses 3</td>
<td>Exam 4 P1 and P2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Review/Catch ups</td>
<td>P1 and P2 Submits</td>
<td>Finals Prep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Finals</td>
<td>Lecture Finals Comprehensive</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Final Exam Schedule:** Thursday May 9, 8.00 am- 10.00 am

Disclaimer: This schedule is a guide for the semester. The instructor reserves the right to amend the schedule as necessary.
Course Agreement Form

Read, complete, and return to instructor:

I have read the course syllabus for Dr. Matute’s General Ecology, w/Lab (BIOL.2404) class at University of Arkansas-Pulaski Technical College, and I understand its content. I also understand the rules for the class, and I will follow and abide by these rules, including those relating to attendance, assignments, grading criteria, plagiarism, and behavior.

________________________________________
Semester

________________________________________
Date

________________________________________
Print name

________________________________________
Signature

________________________________________
UA-PTC Email address

________________________________________
Telephone