

Winter 2021 Syllabus

Synchronous meeting time: Wednesday, 2:00pm – 3:50pm,

Zoom virtual meeting accessible here: <https://pdx.zoom.us/j/87414987347> Meeting ID: 874 1498 7347

Instructor: Leslie Bliss-Ketchum, Ph.D.

Email: blissket@pdx.edu

Office: Harrison Street Building, 108

Office Hours: By appointment or Virtual meeting room on Mondays 2:30pm to 4:30pm (accessible here:

Join Zoom Meeting <https://pdx.zoom.us/j/88618145436> Meeting ID: 886 1814 5436

Teaching Assistant: Anton Surunis

Email: asurunis@pdx.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday 11am to 12pm

Course objectives

Study ecosystem processes in urban areas, including structure and function, how humans manage urban ecosystems, and in particular, how human social systems can and do influence urban ecological function. Emphasis will be on responses of flora and fauna to changes in climate, hydrology, geomorphology, geochemistry, soils and available habitat in urban areas. Issues of species conservation, ecosystem management, environmental justice, restoration and sustainability in urban systems will also be discussed.

Instructor Inclusivity Statement

It is my intent that students from all backgrounds and perspectives be well served by this course, that students' learning needs to be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit. It is my priority to create a learning space that is respectful of gender, sexuality, ability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, nationality, and culture. I encourage and appreciate any suggestions for meeting this goal. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally or for other students or student groups. In addition, please let me know of any religious or other events that may conflict with any of our class meetings this term so that we can make alternative arrangements for meeting course requirements.

Student Evaluations

Item	Points	Total Grade %
News reports	60	15%
Quizzes (2)	40 each, 80 total	20%
Midterm exam	100	25%
Final exam	100	25%
Participation	60	15%
TOTAL	400 points	100%

Grade Value

Scores for each graded assignment/test will be totaled and a final grade will be based on the total score as a percent of 400 as follows: A= 100 to 93%; A- = 92 to 90%; B+= 89 to 87%; B= 86 to 83%; B-=82 to 80%; C+=79 to 77%; C=76 to 73%; C-= 72 to 70%; D= 69 to 60%; F= 59% and below.

Assignments

Reading assignments: All readings will be posted to D2L at least 1 week prior to their due date. Required readings are expected to be read prior to synchronous class time; be ready to discuss them within virtual meeting times.

Undergraduate News Reports: Each student will present once during the term on an urban ecology item in the news. Please sign up for a topic and presentation slot **before Monday January 11th** ([the sign up sheet is available here](#)). Starting on January 13th, at the beginning of each class 4-6 students will give a brief verbal summary of their news article. Students will have posted a summary and link to the news item pertinent to the assigned topic thread in the D2L Discussion “Undergraduate News Reports” prior to their assigned presentation time. Summary posts will be no longer than four sentences but should adequately describe the main points and findings (if applicable) of the article. Other students are encouraged to ask questions and/or otherwise comment on the article in the discussion thread. News items can be from online or print sources, and include newspapers, magazines, blogs, and journal articles. Please see the [grading rubric linked here](#) for assignment details and suggested news sources.

Graduate News Reports: Each graduate student will give a 7-minute virtual presentation on an urban ecology study from the primary literature. The topic will be the choice of the student but must be directly relevant to urban ecology. The presentation should include a PowerPoint and give a detailed description of the study methods, analyses, and findings. Please see the grading [rubric](#) here & add your name and topic to the [sign up sheet](#) **before February 22nd**.

Exams: There will be two timed exams, a midterm and a final. The final will not be cumulative. We will review for each exam in the previous synchronous class period.

Quizzes: There will be two timed quizzes during the term. The goal of the quizzes is to familiarize students with the types of questions that will be asked on exams and enforce learning of course content.

Participation: Attendance in synchronous meeting times, asking questions (through chat or verbally), participating in discussion board postings, and contribution to small-group activities will all be considered in the calculation of your participation grade.

Course Policies and Responsibilities

Illness policy: Contact the instructor before synchronous class, or as soon as possible by email if you are unable to attend. For an illness resulting in more than 2 missed synchronous class periods, please provide a doctor’s note or other documentation to avoid late/missed work penalties.

Late and missed work policy: For news report posts and presentations a 10% per week late penalty will be applied. Students must complete quizzes, exams, and news reports, with the time allotted unless prior arrangements are made or in the case of an illness or emergency.

Access and inclusion for students with disabilities: If any aspects of instruction or course design result in barriers to your inclusion or learning, please notify me. I am happy to work with you to ensure that your full participation in this course is possible. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) provides reasonable accommodations for students who encounter barriers in the learning environment. If you already have accommodations from the DRC, please contact me to make sure I have received a faculty notification letter and to discuss your accommodation.

Student Conduct: Students are expected to adhere to the PSU Code of Student Conduct: <https://www.pdx.edu/dos/psu-student-code-conduct>.

Winter 2021 Class Schedule*

	Asynchronous Activities			Synchronous Activities https://pdx.zoom.us/j/87414987347
Week	Reading Assignment(s)	Recorded lecture(s) or Events	Date	Topics
1	<u>Required: Schell et al 2020</u> Recommended: McDonnell 2011, Alberti et al. 2003	Week 1a: Welcome and Course Intro Week 1a: Syllabus review Week 1b: What is Urban Ecology?	1/6	Sign up for news reports, reading discussion. Undergrad news reports - topic sign up due before Monday Jan 11th
2	<u>Required: Luck & Wu 2002</u> Recommended: Tanner p. 1-14, Alberti Chapter 7	Week 2a: Intro to urban ecosystems Week 2b: Atmospheric processes	1/13	First news reports, discuss lecture content/readings
3	<u>Required: Walsh et al. 2005</u> Recommended: Yeakley 2014, Holder et al. 2017	Week 3a: Hydrology 1 Week 3b: Hydrology 2	1/20	News reports, discuss content/readings, prep for Quiz 1
Quiz 1 - Available on D2L starting Mon 1/25, closed by 2pm Wed 1/27			1/25-1/27	
4	<u>Required: Oldfield et al. 2014, Hermann et al. 2018</u> Recommended: Pavao-Zuckerman 2009	Week 4a: Soils 1 Week 4b: Soils 2	1/27	News reports, discuss content/readings
5	<u>Required: Pataki et al. 2011</u> Recommended: Adler and Tanner Chapters 3.2 and 3.3	Week 5a: Biogeochemistry 1 Week 5b: Biogeochemistry 2	2/3	News reports, Midterm review
Midterm Exam - open 1:30p - 4:30p Mon 2/8			2/8	Midterm Exam
6	<u>Required: Alberti Chapter 8</u>	Week 6: Urban biodiversity	2/10	News reports, discuss content/readings
7	<u>Required: Williams et al. 2009</u> Recommended: Hahs et al. 2009, von Behren et al. 2013	Week 7a: Plant ecology 1 Week 7b: Plant ecology 2	2/17	News reports, discuss content/readings, Graduate news reports - topic sign up due before Mon Feb 22nd
8	<u>Required: Evans et al. 2015, Ferronato et al. 2016, Lopucki and Kitowski 2017</u> Recommended: Bliss-Ketchum et al 2016	Week 8a: Animal ecology 1 Week 8b: Animal ecology 2 Week 9a: Impacts of artificial light	2/24	News reports, discuss content/readings, prep for Quiz 2
Quiz 2 - Available on D2L starting Mon 3/1, closed by 2pm Wed 3/3			3/1-3/3	
9	<u>Required: Boone et al. 2009,</u> <u>Revisit: Schell et al 2020</u> Recommended: Wolch et al. 2014	Week 10a: Environmental Justice Week 10b: Environmental Justice UERC 2021 Conference	3/3	News reports, discuss content/readings: Revisit Schell et al 2020, UERC discussion, Final exam review, open discussion/questions
10			3/10	Graduate student news reports
Final Exam - open 12:30p - 2:20p Wed 3/17			3/17	Final Exam 12:30p - 2:20p

*Schedule and assigned readings may be updated during the course of the term