

ECOL 302 ECOLOGY
FALL 2013 LAB INFORMATION

Lab Goals: To give you hands on experience collecting, analyzing, and interpreting ecological data.

Lab Structure and Grading: Grading will be determined by points for the following course components:

<i>Component:</i>	<i>Points</i>
Participation	30
Lab Notebook	120 (includes notes and responses to questions for 12 regular labs)
Lab Paper	100
TOTAL	250

Passing the lab: You are required to pass the lab component in order to pass the entire course. This requires three things:

- A minimum of 150 lab points (60% of the lab grade)
- No more than 3 labs missed
- All assignments completed (except for missed labs)

Lab handouts: All lab directions for each week will be on the course website. You need to read and print these off before you come to your lab meeting. **READ & STUDY** all lab directions before coming to lab.

Meeting locations: Each lab handout will give the location at the top of the page.

- Indoor labs will meet in your assigned rooms in Koffler 440 or 441.
- Field labs will meet in outside of Biosciences West in the small parking due East of the building. If you don't come to BSW for a field lab, you will get left behind. Because space in the vans is limited, you may not be able to reschedule a missed field lab. You will get left behind and be graded absent.

Lab attendance: Attendance in the labs is required and will be taken. If you miss a lab, you will receive a zero for your lab notebook activities for that lab. More than 3 lab absences results in failing the lab. Failing the lab means automatically failing the entire course.

Make-ups for missed labs are only available if you:

- Get prior approval from your TA and the TA of the lab you will visit.
- Have a documented reason for your absence – e.g. sickness, death in the family, etc. (excuses that do not count = I overslept, It was too hot out. I missed the van, or I had to work, etc.)
- Attend another lab section during the same week, if there is space for you in the lab/van (there may not be), and you coordinate between TA s.

Lab notebook: All scientists use a lab notebook of some kind. You are required to bring a bound lab notebook (not a binder) to lab. All lab sessions will require you to record information/data/responses to questions in your notebook. We recommend the thin

Moleskine paperback books (the UA Bookstore has these in cheap packs of three – you can share with your friends!) or something similar.

Late work: When you are required to turn in a lab assignment, the due date is the start of your lab meeting time. Late assignments will lose 5 points for missing the start-of-lab due date, as well each additional day late, where days end at 5pm, and assignments turned in between 5pm Friday and 5pm Monday will be recorded as in on Monday.

What to bring for indoor labs:

- lab notebook
- lab handout
- calculator
- writing equipment

What additional items to bring for field labs:

Field labs are rain or shine (yes, even blazing sun), so be sure to prepare...

- Water. You should also drink the water (sounds silly, but there have been issues).
- Hat
- Sunscreen
- Clothes appropriate for tromping around in the desert
- Pay special attention to your shoes — no flip-flops or high heels; sandals leave your feet exposed to thorns, ****snakes****, hiking boots of your TAs.

Another note about plagiarism: Plagiarism is lifting text from any written material, be it hard-copy or web-based, and presenting it as if you wrote it; taking ideas without proper attribution is also a form of plagiarism. If you are unsure how to quote or attribute ideas to authors, ask your TA for help (**ignorance is not an excuse**). Plagiarism is a form of stealing, and it is (along with cheating) a punishable offense. If you find yourself in that situation where you are afraid of failing a course, the best (and most effective) thing you can do is talk to your instructors or your TA about **legal** ways to improve your performance. Remember, if you are caught cheating or plagiarizing, you **WILL** be given a failing grade for this course.

If you decide to take and continue in this course, you are agreeing to submit your papers online, when so instructed, to a plagiarism-prevention program called TurnItIn.com. When you set up your individual account with TurnItIn.com for this class, make sure you understand and consent to all the terms that the program provides you at that point. You should note that TurnItIn.com – always without your name and any personal information – will retain your paper as part of their database so that students who plagiarize from it can be detected. Because of this program, the vast majority of you who do your own work and cite your sources of information properly will not have to compete with students who commit undetected plagiarism.

Anyone who has questions or problems with TurnItIn.com may talk privately about these with the instructor.

Notice: *The information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policies, may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.*

ECOL 302 LAB SCHEDULE 2013

Weeks start with the lab sections on **Tuesday**, due to the Labor Day holiday.

Monday labs will be the last to conduct any given lab,
until Thanksgiving week, when **only Monday** sections will meet (Nov 25).

Week		Lab	Location
1	Aug 27	none (1 st week)	
2	Sep 03	Observations & questions	Field: Gates Pass
3	Sep 10	Ideal free distributions of birds	Field: Sweetwater wetlands
4	Sep 17	Population size and behavior of lizards	Field: Around campus
5	Sep 24	Saguaro age distributions	Field: Tumamoc
6	Oct 01	Stage structured models, PVA and extinction risk	Campus
7	Oct 08	Transect, plant distributions I	Field: Greasewood
8	Oct 15	Transect, plant distributions II	Field: Sweetwater wetlands
9	Oct 22	Compare transects	Campus
10	Oct 29	Competition & predation models	Campus
11	Nov 05	Disease ecology	Field: Around campus
12	Nov 12	Plant associations	Field: Tumamoc
13	Nov 19	Conceptual models & experimental design	Field: Gates Pass
14	Nov 26	none (Thanksgiving) Mon sections meet Nov 25 to complete Wk 13 lab	
15	Dec 02	Scientific paper	Campus
16	Dec 09	none	