

COURSE TITLE: ECOL596I
Invasive Species Biology
Spring 2013
Monday 10am-12pm

Instructor: Dr. Katrina Dlugosch
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Office Hours: Monday 1-3pm

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes: This seminar-style graduate-level course will explore standing questions about the biology, ecology, and evolution of introduced and invasive species. We will explore what aspects of organisms and communities favor successful colonization of new habitats, and what factors trigger rapid expansion (invasion). Students will provide brief overviews of the background of specific areas of the field, and the majority of class time will be spent discussing current literature and major questions. Students will develop knowledge of key hypotheses and findings in invasion biology, and hone their skills in dissecting primary literature and identifying unexplored research avenues.

Course Structure and Grading: Students will be responsible for leading (at least) one discussion and will prepare a 2 page mini-review of one of their topics ahead of time. They will also prepare a 3 page post-discussion mini-review of a different topic, including points raised during discussion and future research avenues.

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

Discussion leadership (familiarity with readings and facilitation of group discussion)	20
Pre-discussion Mini-review	20
Post-discussion Mini-review	20
Participation in discussions	40
<hr/> TOTAL	<hr/> 100

Grading scale:

A: 90 - 100

B: 80 - 89

C: 70 - 79

D: 60 - 69

E (fail): 0-59

Absence policies: Students are expected to attend every class session. All holidays or special events observed by organized religions will be honored for those students who show affiliation with that particular religion, and absences pre-approved by the UA Dean of Students (or Dean's designee) will be honored.

Required texts: None, Readings will be made available by instructor

Lecture and Discussion Topic Outline

Week	Topic
1	Organizational meeting and Topic assignments
2	Disturbance and colonizing species
3	Plasticity and general-purpose-genotypes
4	Lag times
5	Natural enemies and biotic resistance
6	Novel weapons
7	Resource use efficiency
8	Genetic bottlenecks
9	Mating Systems
10	Hybridization
11	Diversity-invasibility
12	Community phylogenetics
13	Range sizes
14	Population dynamics
15	Islands vs. mainlands

Policy on Expected Classroom Behavior: Student in the course are expected to participate to the best of their abilities in each class session. No electronic communication devices should be used during the class session.

Policies against Plagiarism, etc., within Student Code of Academic Integrity can be found here: <http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/codeofacademicintegrity>. All students are expected to submit work that is entirely their own.

Policies against Threatening Behavior by students can be found here <http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/policiesandcodes/studentcodeofconduct>. All students are expected to treat one another and the instructor with respect at all times.

Students with Disabilities: If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, please meet with me so that we can discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course. If you determine that disability-related accommodations are necessary, please register with Disability Resources (621-3268; drc.arizona.edu) and notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. We can then plan how best to coordinate your accommodations.

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.