Course Information

Number:	SC204
Name:	Ecology
Description:	By carefully examining the basic components, functions, balances, and interactions of the natural world, this course emphasizes how the world works and lets students investigate a life-enhancing, ethical approach to the environment.
Credit(s):	3
Offered (DAY schedule):	Every Spring Semester
Instructor Permission Required:	N
Pre-Requisite(s):	

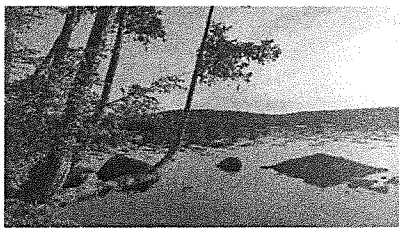
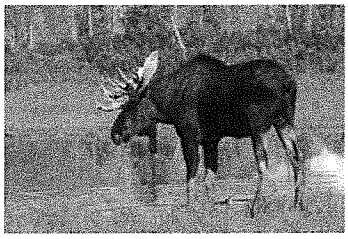
Course Objectives

After completing this course, students will be able to: Describe the scientific method and explain its importance in pursuing truth in science. Summarize natural selection's influence on evolution of the species. Identify components of ecosystems and summarize the flow of energy and matter through an ecosystem. Describe population characteristics and summarize the concept of carrying capacity. Summarize the importance of competition, predation, symbiosis and succession in communities. Summarize the components of aquatic ecosystems and explain the functions and values of wetlands. Summarize the importance of conserving biodiversity.

Syllabus

SC 204 Ecology Independent Study

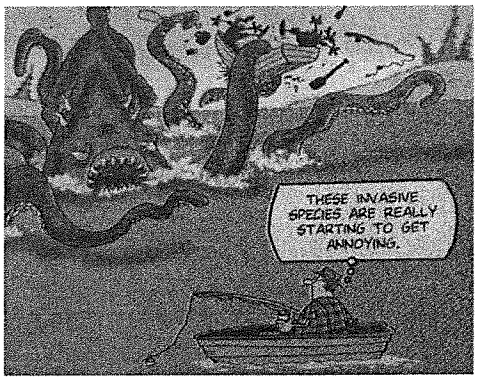
Fall 2017; 3 credits

This course investigates how the natural world works through examination of the basic components, functions, balances, and interactions of biology, geology, weather, and water. The intent is not to make you into an ecologist but to enhance your understanding of the natural world and the New England landscape that you see every day. *This independent study course can be completed at your own pace, and therefore completed early if you so desire.* Therefore, the readings, materials, and assignments are posted in Moodle, but PLEASE EMAIL ME THE COMPLETED ASSIGNMENTS because I won't know when you have completed them.

After completing this course, students will be able to:

1) Describe the scientific method and explain its importance in pursuing truth in science.
2) Summarize natural selection's influence on evolution of species.
3) Identify the flow of energy and matter through an ecosystem.
4) Describe population characteristics and summarize the concept of carrying capacity.
5) Summarize the importance of competition, predation, and succession in communities.
6) Summarize components and functions in aquatic ecosystems.
7) Summarize the importance of conserving biodiversity

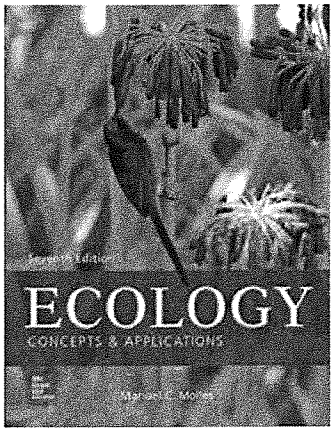


Instructor: Dr. Steve Kahl; WWW.LINKEDIN.COM/IN/SKAHL

Office: AD 120a (office 859-1337; mobile phone 207-944-1373)

Office hours: Monday through Thursday at 1pm, or by appointment. You can also usually catch me after class. Feel free to call or text my mobile phone during office hours in case I am out of the office. I am glad to meet you at Jeanie's Café to chat over coffee. I'll buy!

Text and course materials:



Ecology: Concepts and Applications, 2016 (7th edition). Manuel Molles. (McGraw Hill; ISBN: 978-0-07-783728-0).

Additional electronic material posted in Moodle will be an essential component of the course.

Grading. Course grade will be based on homework assignments in Moodle and several exams.

Course deliverables:

Homeworks typically consisting short submissions that include an annotated bibliography of your sources, font 12, one inch margins, single spaced).

Class schedule and topics are organized clearly in Moodle. Follow the progress of the course in Moodle, submit assignments on time as shown in Moodle, and you will do well in this class.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

http://www.thomas.edu/inside/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/ThomasCollegeHandbook2014-15.pdf

Students are expected to do assigned work themselves or in assigned groups, to write papers in their own words, and to cite sources appropriately and accurately. Taking credit for work that is not your own is a serious offense, such as these excerpts from the student handbook cited above:

Plagiarizing. Borrowing, copying, or failing to properly cite and document sources may constitute plagiarism, even if there is no deliberate attempt or intent to misrepresent the work in question. *All instances of plagerism are required by Thomas College policy to be reported to the Academic Affairs Office.* A minor offense may result in the assignment getting a zero; most plagerism offenses in my classes have resulted in dismissal from the course.

Aiding and abetting plagiarism. Permitting others to use your work.

Cheating. Copying from another student's exam paper; permitting others to copy one's work; accepting or giving unauthorized assistance on coursework and/or assignments.

Falsifying. Falsification or fabrication of research results, quotations, facts, and/or references. *Falsifying includes using 'fake news' on purpose or inadvertently.*

Note: Proper citation of references and sources used is an essential part of all deliverables in this course.