

EEES 3060 Syllabus & Information

Course Title: Ecology Laboratory (EEES 3060)

Instructors:

TA: Deepesh Bista

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Office: BO 3001

Office hours: M: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

W: 11am – 1 pm

TA: Jessica Sherman

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Office: BO 3043

Office hours: M: 12 pm – 2 pm

W: 1 pm – 3 pm

Faculty Supervisor:

Dr. Tom Bridgeman, Thomas.Bridgeman@utoledo.edu

Office: BO 2007 C, 419-530-5499

Office Hours: M: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, TH: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Sections:

001 Mon. 2:00-4:50

002 Thur. 1:00-3:50

Class location:

Wolfe Hall 1230

Course Description:

The purpose of this laboratory is to take theoretical concepts from your lecture coursework and apply them to the real world, examining multiple systems within the confines of the Ottawa River watershed. In addition to the general ecological understanding, we have incorporated partnerships with community organizations and governmental agency protocols for your career development. We hope you can use this opportunity to explore your interests and how those interests can apply to potential career paths regardless if it is ecology.

Materials:

- You need to provide a calculator & field supplies (hat, gloves, boots, raincoat, sunscreen, bug repellent, etc.). We will be going out in the field when it rains.
- When we are in the field, you will be **required** to wear fully legged pants and closed shoes.
- Lab materials (including waders when needed) and safety gear (nitrile gloves, eye protection) are provided.
- A Lab Manual will be provided for you throughout the semester.

Evaluation Procedures:

Graded Materials	Total
(10) Weekly Blog Entries on Blackboard – 4 pts each	40%
(3) Drafts of Report – 10 pts each	30%
Final Report – 30 pts	30%
Total:	100%

Your overall grade will be calculated on a straight scale (A, 100 – 93%; A-, 92 – 90%; B+, 89 – 87%; B, 86 – 83%; B-, 82 – 80%; etc.) based on your earned points total (100 total points possible).

Tardiness, Absences and Course Expectations:

This is a laboratory, and as such, instructions are given in the beginning of the lab period – your promptness and preparation are greatly appreciated. Tardiness disrupts class and will not be tolerated – especially when we are going into the field. You will be wasting everyone else’s time, and we will not wait – nor will we make provisions for you to meet us.

- In general, no provisions can be made for making up missed labs.
- **A student will receive a grade of F for the semester if he or she misses more than one lab period during the semester.**
- If a student arrives more than 10 minutes late for a lab, this will be counted as a missed lab. Exceptions are granted for medical emergencies with a doctor's excuse or family emergencies with proper documentation.
- For more information see the university's missed class policy: http://www.utoledo.edu/facsenate/missed_class_policy.html
- Planned absences may be managed if **prior** consultation with the TA occurs at least **1 week before** the absence.
- Assignments are due at the beginning of the lab, and will be penalized 10% per day if late.
- Phones and other electronic devices are to be turned off during lab.

Academic Dishonesty:

The Department of Environmental Sciences follows the policy of the U. of Toledo on academic dishonesty. In short, plagiarism is strictly prohibited. If students are caught plagiarizing in this course, **you will receive an F for the class**, and your name will be reported to the Dean's Office. This policy is found in the student handbook. See:

http://www.dl.utoledo.edu/current_students/academic_dishonesty.html

Safety in the laboratory and field

The exercises in this laboratory were designed with safety as a top priority; you must always follow these safety precautions:

- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water when you enter the lab and when you are finished with lab.
- Locate the closest fire extinguisher, fire alarm, eyewash, and other emergency equipment. Familiarize yourself with how to use this equipment.
- Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS's) are available for all chemicals used in the lab. Make yourself familiar with all chemicals, and safety protocols and risks involved.
- Wear closed-toed shoes. No open-toed shoes or sandals are permitted.
- Do not eat, drink, smoke, or apply cosmetics in the lab or field.
- Use the equipment properly. If you have any questions or problems, contact your instructor.
- Clean up spills or broken glass immediately. Report these to your instructors. Broken glass should be discarded in a special 'glass' box.
- Report all injuries—no matter how minor—immediately to your instructors.
- Keep open flames away from flammable materials including you, your clothing and hair.
- Never taste any substance or solution. Do not put anything in lab or field into your mouth.
- Treat all live animals gently and with respect.
- Latex gloves should be used when handling preserved specimens, chemicals, etc.
- Clean and put the microscope away.
- Return all equipment and supplies to their original locations.
- Wear appropriate pants and long sleeve shirts as needed for the field.
- Wear sunscreen in the field.
- Obey all warnings and safety guidelines.

NOTE: Any student, who, because of a disabling condition, may require special arrangements in order to meet course requirements, should contact the Office of Accessibility at 419-530-4981

Fall 2014 3060-001 (MONDAY), Schedule of Laboratory Topics and Assignment Due Dates

Date	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT DUE
Aug 24	Project Context, Campus Walk (Pitfall Traps, Collect Soil Sample)	
Aug 31	Campus (% Cover & Collect Pitfall Traps) & Lab Discussion	
Sep 07	Labor Day – No Lab This Week	
Sep 14	SV Savanna (Deploy Pitfall Traps, Collect Soil Sample, Culture)	
Sep 21	SV Savanna (% Cover & Collect Pitfall Traps; OORAM)	
Sep 28	Kitty Todd (Deploy Pitfall Traps, Collect Soil Sample, Culture)	
Oct 05	Kitty Todd (% Cover & Collect Pitfall Traps; OORAM)	Hypotheses (Blog)
Oct 12	Fall Break – No lab for Section 001	
Oct 19	Irwin Prairie (Deploy Pitfall Traps, Collect Soil Sample, Culture)	Draft Methods (Part 1)
Oct 26	Irwin Prairie (% Cover & Collect Pitfall Traps; EPA ORAM)	Draft Methods (Complete)
Nov 02	Campus (Ottawa River IBI); Analyze Wet Soils & Add to Oven	
Nov 9	Identify and Analyze Pitfall Trap Data; Analyze Dry Soils; Combust Soils	Draft Introduction & Lit Cited
Nov 16	Data Analysis – What do you want to analyze?; Analyze Combusted Soils	
Nov 23	Data Analysis & Excel Help	
Nov 30	Wolfe Creek & Berger Ditch Restoration Tour	Draft Results & Discussion
Dec 07	Class Discussion – What did you get out of this? Evals & Help Session	
Dec 14	FINALS WEEK – No Lab	Final Report

Fall 2014 3060-002 (THURSDAY), Schedule of Laboratory Topics and Assignment Due Dates

Date	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT DUE
Aug 27	Project Context, Campus Walk (Pitfall Traps, Collect Soil Sample)	
Sep 03	Campus (% Cover & Collect Pitfall Traps) & Lab Discussion	
Sep 10	Labor Day – No Lab This Week	
Sep 17	SV Savanna (Deploy Pitfall Traps, Collect Soil Sample, Culture)	
Sep 24	SV Savanna (% Cover & Collect Pitfall Traps; OORAM)	
Oct 01	Kitty Todd (Deploy Pitfall Traps, Collect Soil Sample, Culture)	
Oct 08	Kitty Todd (% Cover & Collect Pitfall Traps; OORAM)	Hypotheses (Blog)
Oct 15	Irwin Prairie (Deploy Pitfall Traps, Collect Soil Sample, Culture)	
Oct 22	Irwin Prairie (% Cover & Collect Pitfall Traps; EPA ORAM)	Draft Methods (Part 1)
Oct 29	Campus (Ottawa River IBI); Analyze Wet Soils & Add to Oven	Draft Methods (Complete)
Nov 05	Identify and Analyze Pitfall Trap Data; Analyze Dry Soils; Combust Soils	
Nov 12	Data Analysis – What do you want to analyze?; Analyze Combusted Soils	Draft Introduction & Lit Cited
Nov 19	Data Analysis & Excel Help)	
Nov 26	Thanksgiving – No lab for Section 002	
Dec 03	Wolfe Creek & Berger Ditch Restoration Tour	Draft Results & Discussion
Dec 10	Class Discussion – What did you get out of this? Evals & Help Session	
Dec 17	FINALS WEEK – No Lab	Final Report