

### Course Information

**Instructor:** Merrill Peterson  
**Office Hours:** M 1-2, F 11-12, and by appointment  
BI 312 (650-3636; [peterson@biol.wvu.edu](mailto:peterson@biol.wvu.edu))  
**Graduate TA:** Sarah Harper-Smith (650-7464; [harpers@cc.wvu.edu](mailto:harpers@cc.wvu.edu)),  
Sarah's office hours:  
**Lab location, time:** BI 139, Wed. 1:00-4:50pm  
**Website:** <http://www.biol.wvu.edu/peterson/courses.html>

#### What to wear for field labs:

Many labs are in the field and involve the risk of getting muddy or wet. Dress appropriately. On field days (Sept. 26, Oct. 3, 10, 31, Nov. 7, 14), bring raingear and footwear that will keep your feet dry and comfortable, no matter what the weather looks like in the morning. Extra layers (sweatshirts, sweaters, fleece jackets), hat, and gloves will also help, especially late in the quarter.

#### What else to bring to class:

For many of our lab exercises, we be doing analyses and making figures on computers. For every lab, bring a USB thumb drive on which you can store your files. In addition, make sure that you are familiar with navigating to your U: drive, which will serve as the backup for your files.

#### Evaluation of coursework:

Your grade will be based on a total of 380 possible points:

Stream Ecology: Literature search	10
Stream Ecology: First draft of introduction, methods	30
Stream Ecology: Data sheets	10
Stream Ecology: First draft of entire paper	60
Stream Ecology: Final draft	100
Group Project: Description of question, motivation, methods, equipment list	30
Group Project: Data, summary stats, figs. & tables, reference list	20
Group Project: Presentations	100
Participation	<u>20</u>
Total:	<u>380</u>

#### Important notes:

- 1) Be sure to refer to the lab report handout for specific instructions on writing lab reports. **Following the assigned format and content guidelines is important for success in this course.**
- 2) Late assignments will lose 5% per day late, unless prior to the due date, you have obtained my permission for an extension.
- 3) Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Assignments with plagiarism problems can result in no credit, failing the class, or expulsion from the university. If you have questions about plagiarism, talk to one of the instructors and/or see WWU's web sites: [www.library.wvu.edu/ref/plagiarism.html](http://www.library.wvu.edu/ref/plagiarism.html) and [www.wvu.edu/depts/soc/plagiarism.PDF](http://www.wvu.edu/depts/soc/plagiarism.PDF)  
**Although you will be working in groups, you must do your own writing in this course, unless the assignment specifically says otherwise.**

#### Grades:

Grades will be based on percentage of the 380 total points possible that you earn, as follows:

**A** 93-100; **A-** 90-92.9; **B+** 87-89.9; **B** 83-86.9; **B-** 80-82.9; **C+** 77-79.9; **C** 73-76.9;  
**C-** 70-72.9; **D+** 67-69.9; **D** 63-66.9; **D-** 60-62.9; **F** <60

Announcements (e.g. for changes in assignments or locations of field labs), will be made in lab, as well as in the Biol. 325 lecture, in the event of last-minute announcements. If you are not taking Biol. 325 this quarter, please check with an instructor or your group-mates each week to make sure that there have been no changes in our plans.

## Lab Schedule

- Sept. 26 Introduction to the course; Preliminary observations of stream ecosystems
- Oct. 3 Stream Ecology I: invertebrate sampling and stream characterization  
**DUE THE DAY BEFORE LAB: Literature search results**
- Oct. 10 Stream Ecology II: invertebrate sampling and stream characterization  
**DUE: First draft of Introduction and Methods for Stream Ecology lab report** (returned 10/17)
- Oct. 17 Stream Ecology III: sort invertebrate samples
- Oct. 19 **DUE: Completed data sheets (with invertebrate data & stream characterization data)**
- Oct. 24 Stream Ecology IV: computer lab  
1) Intro to Excel (data entry, formulas, graphing, basic statistics)  
2) Analyze stream ecology data
- Oct. 31 Group Projects I: Make observations, develop testable question and methods to answer it  
**DUE THE DAY BEFORE LAB: Revised Introduction and Methods, plus first draft of Abstract, Results, Discussion, and Literature Cited for Stream Ecology lab report** (returned 11/7)
- Nov. 7 Group Projects II: Refine methods, gather equipment (get training), begin collecting data  
**DUE: Group project question, motivation, proposed methods, equipment needed**
- Nov. 14 Group Projects III: Collect data, get photos of field sites, organisms  
**DUE: Final draft of entire Stream Ecology report**
- Nov. 28 Group Projects IV: computer lab (analyze data, produce figures and tables)  
**DUE: Group project data, summary statistics, figures/tables, and reference list**
- Dec. 5 **PowerPoint presentations of group projects**

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