

DO NOT LOSE THIS SYLLABUS OR THROW IT AWAY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
 THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS INSTRUCTOR SEES FIT.

Clicker #: _____



BIOLOGY 103 (BIOL103): Environmental Biology
 TTh 8:30am -9:45pm, McNair Science Building (MSB) room 13
 Francis Marion University – FALL SEMESTER 2012

INSTRUCTOR: PAUL ZWIERS (pronounced “zoo-ears”), Ph.D.

Office: MSB 301C

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Office phone: (843) 661.1654

Website: people.fmarion.edu/pzwiers/

EMAIL IS BEST! I am not in my office nor check my voicemail regularly.



Dr. Zwiers’ weekly schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30	Univ. Life	BIO103	Univ. Life	BIO103	Available by appointment*
9:00	8:30-9:20**	8:30-9:45	8:30-9:20**	8:30-9:45	Available by appointment*
9:30	BIO105		BIO105		BIO105
10:00	9:30-10:20		9:30-10:20	Office hours	9:30-10:20
10:30	Office hours		Unavailable	10:00-11:30	Office hours
11:00	10:30-11:30				10:30-11:30
11:30	Unavailable	Available by appointment*		Unavailable	Unavailable
12:00					
12:30			BIO115		
1:00			11:30-2:20		
1:30				BIO115	
2:00				12:45-3:35	
2:30					
3:00			Unavailable		
3:30				Science	
4:00				Symposium	
4:30			3:45-5:00		

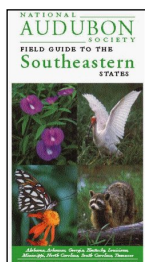
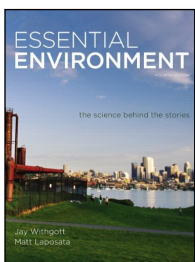
Office hours:

Set hours
 Mon 10:30 – 11:30
 Thur 10:00 – 11:30
 Fri 10:30 – 11:30

By appointment*
 Tues 10:00 – 2:30
 Fri 8:30 – 9:30
 Mon and Wed
 8:30-9:30**

*Availability by appointment may change, set up appointments 24 hours in advance via EMAIL.
 **Starting October 29, Univ. Life will change to “Available by appointment”.
 Previously stated conditions apply.

BIO103 course description: World population is growing, plants and animals are going extinct, climate is changing, and pollution and sustainable use of resources are ever-present problems. This course is designed to give the learner an understanding of how science works, especially in relation to how our environment works. No matter your major, you will confront environmental issues that touch you directly – so it is crucial that you have a basic understanding of the science and policy behind these issues. This class will give you that knowledge.



Texts: Withgott, J. and Laposata, M. 2011. *Essential Environment*, 4th ed. Pearson: San Francisco.

Alden, P. 1999. *National Audubon Society Field Guide - Southeastern States*, 1st ed. Knopf.

Laboratory Manual: Pike, L. et al. 2012. *Biology 103 L Environmental Biology Laboratory*. Francis Marion University.

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Tentative lecture and exam schedule:

Week of	Topic & Assessments	Readings (# = chapter in textbook)	notes
Aug. 20	What is Ecology? What is Science? What is Sustainability / Footprint? Major Environmental Problems: Overview	1	8/24- Last day to drop/add
Aug. 27	Plant Taxonomy and Biology	Audubon pg.86, 88, 92-93, 97, 135-137	
Sept. 3	Animal Taxonomy and Biology	Audubon pg.182,183,185,190,193,195,197, 200,201,211,213,216,219,235,237,240,258,259, 262,263,267,273,277,279,350-5,371	
Sept. 10	Planet Earth: Chemistry and Energy Basics, Trophic Levels, Nutrient Cycles, Decomposition (movie: Planet Earth - Jungles)	2, 4, 13 (p279-282), also p.216 Audubon p54-59	9/14- Last day to withdraw w/o penalty
	EXAM #1		
Sept. 17	Climate, Biomes (movie –PE: pole to pole	4	
Sept. 24	Biology Basics: Population Ecology, Overfishing	3, 9 (p 192), 12 (p273-275)	
Oct. 1	Community ecology: Species Interactions & Diversity, Succession	4	
Oct. 8	Soils, SC Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecosystems	7 (p137-40), 12 (p250-257) Audubon p 29, 30-46, 50-51	HALF WAY DONE!
	EXAM #2		
Oct. 15	Natural Selection and Evolution / Plant and Animal Adaptations (Form and Function) (Movie: Attenborough- Life (Hunters and hunted)	3	
Oct. 22	Human Population Growth / Overconsumption, Habitat / Biodiversity loss	6, 8 Audubon p 48-53, 77	
Oct. 29	Water Quality	12	
	EXAM #3		
Nov. 5	Agriculture / Biotechnology	7, 10 (pesticides)	
Nov. 12	Global Climate Change / Air Quality	13, 14	11/16- Last day to withdraw w/ penalty
Nov. 19	Energy Policy (movie: Sustaining the Earth)	15, 16	
Nov. 26	Sustainability / Economics (movie: Planet Earth: Living Together)	epilogue	
	EXAM #4		

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Course objectives: By the end of the course, students should: 1) understand the scientific method, 2) have an understanding of the basic science upon which environmental biology rests, 3) understand the basics of resource generation, use and management, 4) develop an awareness of the major environmental problems, policies, and laws, 5) develop a basic understanding of how plants contribute to and function within our environment and 6) be familiar with the plant and animal diversity of South Carolina.

Assessment: Points can be earned in multiple ways throughout the semester. Clickers will be utilized in class to answer in-class questions. Points will be awarded for correct answers. A total of twelve (12) quizzes and four (4) exams will be given throughout the semester. The fourth exam will be on the last day of lecture. A final exam, given during the final exam period, will be cumulative and will focus on general concepts presented during the semester. The corresponding 103L laboratory is required for this course. It must be taken during the same semester as the lecture.

Lecture grade:	
Clicker questions	10%
Quizzes (12)	25%
Semester exams (4)	35%
Final exam- given during final exam period; cumulative	5%
Lab grade	<u>25%</u>
Total	100%

Grading scale:	
90-100%	A
87-89.9%	B+
80-86.9%	B
77-79.9%	C+
70-76.9%	C
67-69.9%	D+
60-66.9%	D
<60%	F

Students with disabilities: All academic programs are open to enrolled students irrespective of physical or learning disabilities. I am happy to help any student in my class succeed, regardless of disability. Students requiring special accommodations for disabilities should submit documentation and work through the Office of Counseling and Testing (see the *Student Handbook*).

Class policies:

Use of clickers- We will be using TurningPoint clickers in this course. These devices allow for immediate feedback on course material as students answer in-lecture questions. Every student will be assigned a clicker, so be sure to ONLY pick up YOUR clicker before class. Students should only have their own clicker. If a student is found with more than one clicker, both students will not receive ANY clicker points for the ENTIRE semester (lose 10% of their final grade). Clickers are to be returned at the end of EVERY class. Students will be responsible for replacing their clicker if it is stolen/lost.

Attendance- The use of clickers allows me to quickly take attendance during every class. Furthermore, if you do not come to class, you will not be able to earn clicker points for that day. If you miss more than FIVE (5) class periods, you may be dropped from the course with either a W or F. If you do miss class, you are responsible for obtaining class notes from a classmate (my lecture notes are unavailable, but I am happy to go over questions you may have on material you missed). Attendance is absolutely required when exams are given. Makeup exams are only given in EXTREME circumstances, and ONLY if the absence is documented (e.g. doctor's note). You must contact me BEFORE the next class period,

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and the makeup MUST be taken within ONE week from the original quiz/exam date. A final can ONLY be made up with approval from the Chair of the Department.

Tardiness- I expect you to be on time, being seated and ready to begin at 8:30. Tardiness is rude and disruptive to your colleagues and the instructor. If you are late you will be unable to receive your clicker, will be recorded as absent, and will not receive clicker points for that day. If rampant tardiness becomes a problem, the classroom door may be locked at 8:30 without warning, and no one admitted thereafter.

Quizzes- Quizzes are administered through Blackboard. Sign into your BIOL103 Blackboard account and look for the folder titled "Quizzes". Quizzes will be available for a set period of time to be described in class. Students have only 1 attempt at taking the quiz, and once started, the student will have 30 minutes to finish taking the quiz. **No quizzes or exams will be dropped.** This means that before taking the quiz, you must have a good computer with a good internet connection, and enough time to finish taking the quiz. **There are no makeup quizzes.**

Participation- Classroom questions and discussion are encouraged. Please follow this protocol: 1) raise your hand and be recognized. 2) if a fellow student is asking a question or receiving an answer, don't start talking—you will probably benefit by paying attention. Wait your turn to be recognized if you wish to ask a follow-up question or make a comment.

Electronic devices- **LET ME BE VERY CLEAR, CELL PHONE USE IS NOT ALLOWED.** ALL



electronic devices including cell phones, cameras, texting devices, pagers, and Bluetooth or other wireless accessories must be turned OFF (not just set to vibrate) during class. **You will be asked to leave the class if you use these devices.** No video or still photography is permitted. Computers and voice recorders (tape or digital) are allowed during lectures as long as they operate without disruption (i.e. are muted and have been started up before lecture begins). **Absolutely NO electronic**

devices or activity of any kind are allowed during exams. Presence of ANY such device results in an automatic zero on the exam.

Behavior- Everyone deserves an equal chance to learn the presented material. For this reason I have ZERO tolerance for disruptive behavior in the classroom. Disruptive behavior includes, but is not limited to, private conversations, talking out of turn, receiving phone calls or text messages, reading or studying unrelated materials, and intolerant or abusive behavior towards colleagues or the instructor. If you choose to behave inappropriately, you will be asked to leave the classroom. Persistent problems will be referred to the office of the Dean of Students and you may be dropped from the course.

Class withdraws- If you withdraw from the course after September 14, you will be assigned a grade of "W" (withdraw passing) or "WF", based on your grade average at the time of withdrawal. I reserve the right to drop students from the course, but will not automatically do so; it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to initiate the process by acquiring the proper form and obtaining the required signatures before the deadline. The last date to withdraw for any reason is November 16.

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Academic honesty: Cheating (including plagiarism) on any assignments or during exams **will absolutely NOT be tolerated**. You do not need to cheat to pass this course! Any evidence of cheating or plagiarism will result in a zero on the assignment or exam, and you will be reported to the academic affairs committee for **formal reprimand**. Repeated offenses can result in failure of the course and **expulsion from Francis Marion University**. Please refer to page 56 in the Student Catalog for specific information about the Francis Marion University policy regarding academic honesty.

Blackboard: This course will utilize Blackboard, a web-based classroom assistance program. In Blackboard, students can download lectures and view course material. Additionally, students will receive and turn in quizzes through Blackboard. Go to blackboardtest.fmarion.edu and log in using your swampfox account login (minus "@g.fmarion.edu") and password. **DO THIS TODAY!** You should already be registered for this class. If not, PLEASE SEE ME as soon as possible.

How to succeed in this course:

- Come to class, pay attention, take good clear notes, and earn clicker points. Some material I present in class may not be covered in the textbooks but you are still responsible for that material on quizzes and tests, so PAY ATTENTION!
- Keep up with the reading, and review each day's lecture notes later that day.
- Do your homework BEFORE meeting with a study group or with me. Have questions ready to ask and be prepared to talk through concepts.
- QUIZ EACH OTHER! And be honest if your classmate didn't get it right.
- Do all of the quizzes. Don't miss ANY quizzes or exams.
- Learn how to manage your time wisely. Don't try and cram a whole chapter (or more) worth of material in the night before an exam.
- MOST IMPORTANTLY!!! Come see me if you are having trouble, or if you have had trouble in the past and want to make a change. I CAN HELP, but only if you come find me. The sooner you ask for help the better. There is also tutoring available on campus, free of charge.