



SEMESTER
Life and Natural Sciences Department
School of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

Program Name: Biology
Course Name: Introduction to Ecology - Traditional Online Web Course
Course Number: BIO 203 **Section Number:** XXX
Meeting Day(s) & Time(s): online
Credits: 3
Contact Hours: 3
Text: Ecology: From Individuals to Ecosystems. 5e by Begon and Townsend. 2021. Wiley and Sons Publishers.
Instructor Name:
Office Location:
Office Hours:
Virtual Office Hours:
Owens CC Email:**
Phone:
Additional Contact:

**Please use only Owens email for course communications

Catalog Description: BIO 203 - Introduction to Ecology
BIO 203 introduces basic concepts in ecology. The course is designed for non-science majors, but science majors are welcomed. Students will study the similarities and differences of life, complex interactions between organisms and their environment, and mechanisms that have led to the diversity of life. Website assignments will be utilized. (Science elective)

COREQUISITES: None

PREREQUISITES: None

Please note: This course is not recommended for students in developmental reading.

TEXTBOOKS, MATERIALS, and EQUIPMENT (software/hardware requirements):

Ecology: From Individuals to Ecosystems. 5e by Begon and Townsend. 2021. Wiley and Sons Publishers.

There are two textbook options depending upon your preferences, paperback, or eBook. This course requires reliable internet connection, computer with audio, and the capability to create MS Word documents.

Course Objectives:

The goal of this course is for students to develop a basic understanding of ecology including an understanding of:

1. Environmental problems and sustainability.
2. Our environmental history and present trends.
3. Science, systems, matter, and energy.
4. Ecosystems and how they work.
5. Evolution and biodiversity.
6. Climate and weather.
7. Community and population ecology.

Institutional General Education Competencies:

As a student at Owens Community College, you will take General Education courses as part of your degree program. While specific to the General Education courses, will be reinforced in many of your degree program major courses and may be measured in your capstone course(s) and others as identified.

Competency	Assessed
Communicate effectively.	Discussion Board Questions, Book Report
Act with professional responsibility.	Discussion Board Questions
Demonstrate sensitivity to others' beliefs and values.	Book Report and Discussion Board Questions
Think analytically, critically, and creatively.	Exams, quizzes, Discussion Board Questions, Book Report

Student Learning Outcomes:

Competency	Assessed
Explain ecological principles relating to individual organisms and populations	Exam 1, Quizzes 1-4
Describe the components, energy flow, and nutrient cycling of ecosystems	Exam 1, Quizzes 1-3
Describe how evolution and adaptation leads to speciation and biodiversity	Exam 2, Quizzes 4-6
Explain how factors of biogeography connect all life on earth	Exam 3, Quiz 7
Discuss aspects of population dynamics, carrying capacity, and conservation biology	Exam 4, quiz 8
Discuss influences on natural populations due to human impacts	Exam 5, quizzes 9-10

Grading Procedure:

Your grade is based upon **10** quizzes, **5** exams, **9** discussions, and **one** book report. Final grades for the course are calculated from an accumulation of total points over the entire semester. The total number of possible points is 400. There is no grading on a curve.

Quizzes:

1. There are 10 quizzes administered from Blackboard. Each quiz is worth 10 points.
2. A quiz is open on the first day of the new week. A week is defined as Monday thru Sunday. It is due at the end of the week by TIME according to the deadline of the Assignment.
3. **There are no extensions or makeup quizzes.** Please do not request extensions.

Exams:

1. There are **five** non-comprehensive exams administered from Blackboard. Each exam is worth 45 points and can only be taken once.
2. Exams usually open on DATE at TIME until the following DATE at TIME **or** as indicated in the Assignment Calendar. You are encouraged to complete the exam within the first 24 hours that it is open. All technical issues must be resolved within the window of time that the exam is open.
3. Exams may consist of multiple choice, true/false, matching, fill-ins, essays, or short answers. Questions are administered randomly, one at a time, and you may not backtrack to change a previous answer, unless otherwise noted.

4. If one exam is missed during the semester. You must inform me of your intent to take a makeup exam. Students may not take this exam to improve a poor grade.
5. There are absolutely no extensions or other makeup exams.

Using LockDown Browser for Online Exams:

This course requires the use of LockDown Browser and video monitor for online exams. Watch the video (*link below*) to get a basic understanding of LockDown Browser and the webcam feature. To get started on your computer, watch the instructional video and then download and install LockDown Browser from the link.

- <http://www.respondus.com/products/lockdown-browser/student-movie.shtml>

To get started on your computer, download and install LockDown Browser from this link.

- <http://www.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=139313370>

To take an online test or quiz: start LockDown Browser and navigate to the exam. (*You won't be able to access the exam with a standard web browser.*) For additional details on using LockDown Browser, review the quick start guides from Owens and Respondus in Course Content.

Helpful Hints for Students:

When taking an online exam, follow these guidelines:

- Ensure you're in a location where you won't be interrupted
- Turn off all mobile devices, phones, etc.
- Clear your desk of all external materials — books, papers, other computers, or devices
- Remain at your desk or workstation for the duration of the test
- LockDown Browser will prevent you from accessing other websites or applications; you will be unable to exit the test until all questions are completed and submitted

Discussion Assignments:

1. Participation in **nine** discussions is very important for your success in this course. Each discussion is worth 5 points.
2. Discussions are open on the first day of the new week and due by DATE at **TIME** on the date or indicated in your Calendar. Late discussions are not accepted.
3. I post questions or topics for discussion under the **Discussion Board** button.
4. Each student will appropriately discuss the topic/questions with other students on the Discussion Board. Please address each person by name. **You must make at least one specific appropriate contact with a fellow student to get full credit unless noted otherwise in the topic/question.**
5. The action of logging on does not constitute participation. Participation includes questions or comments about the weekly material, responses to posts made by your instructor, or posts that you make as part of a learning activity. Participation does not include e-mails.
6. The quantity and quality of your posts contribute to participation points awarded. I use a grading rubric to evaluate your postings.
7. **There are no extensions or makeup discussions.**

Book Report:

- Each student writes a book report on a book of his/her choosing **from a list that I provide**. You will find the list under **Book Report**. No other books are acceptable. These books can be found at most local libraries, please check your library while picking your book report.
- **You must choose a book by week 2. An outline is due week 4. The completed report is due week 8.** See your Calendar for deadline dates.
- The book report outline is worth 5 points. The outline must follow the provided format. The book report is worth 25 points. The book report must follow the provided format. If the outline or book report is late, you will lose points. The outline and book report together are worth 30 points.
- **Please submit both the outline and completed book report as an Assignment on Blackboard.** Please do not use any other method.

Extra Credit Points:

1. Students may earn ten extra credit points.
2. A student may **EITHER**:
 - Go online to [EOWilson Biodiversity Foundation \(vimeo.com\)](https://www.vimeo.com/123456789) and select one of the videos to write a synopsis and personal reaction to the video
 - OR**
 - Volunteer for one of the county or city parks by participating in a community service project and preparing a Power Point presentation of the work accomplished and posting it on Blackboard for peer review.
 - Students **may not** do both! Choose one or the other.

Optional E.O. Wilson Video Project for Extra Credit:

1. Students may earn ten points total by going online to [EOWilson Biodiversity Foundation \(vimeo.com\)](https://www.vimeo.com/123456789) and selecting a video.
2. You must tell me which video you are choosing to watch. No more than 2 students can watch the same video for the project.
3. The assignment deadline is **TIME** no more than one week after telling me which video is to be watched.
4. Please submit a 3 page double spaced paper giving a synopsis of the video reviewed, how relevant the material is to any subject matter covered in the course (cite examples), and a personal review and reaction to the subject matter in the video.
5. Please email your assignment to me as a Word attachment.
6. Late assignments are not accepted.

Optional Volunteer Community Service Project & Power Point Presentation for Extra Credit:

1. A student may volunteer for a community service project for a county or city park and earn extra credit.
2. To earn 10 extra credit points for this option, the student must contact one of the parks and make his/her own arrangements to volunteer for the community service project. Students present their volunteer activities in a Power Point presentation posted **in a thread on the Discussion Board**.
3. The park location is the student's choice. However, please have the project authorized by the instructor (me) before you conduct any work. You will provide a park contact name and number to the instructor (me).
4. **An outline of the proposed project is due no later than the deadline given in week 8. Email your outline to me as a Word attachment.** Only after I authorize the project and you have completed the necessary paperwork may you begin volunteering. If you miss this deadline, you may not choose this extra credit option.
5. **The completed volunteer project and posted presentation is due no later than the deadline given in week 8.** The presentation will be open to the class via the Discussion Board for peer input. However, your fellow classmates will not be issuing your grade!
6. Remember this volunteer project is optional! If you appropriately carry out your responsibilities as a member of this class, you will not require bonus points!

Grading Procedure:

10 Quizzes	10 points each	100 points
5 Exams	45 points each	225 points
9 Discussions	5 points each	45 points
1 Book Report/Outline	30 points total	<u>30 points</u>

Total Points

400 points

Grading Criteria:

1. **There are no extensions or makeup assignments.**
2. I expect you to do your own work. There are no open book exams. Plagiarism is not tolerated!
3. There is **no** grading on a curve.
4. The accumulation of total points over the entire semester determines your grade. I strictly adhere to the scale below.
5. Calculate your letter grade using this **absolute** scale:

A =	360-400
B =	320-359
C =	280-319
D =	240-279
F =	239 or below

Posted Grades:

1. To locate your grades in our Blackboard course site, click the **TOOLS** link, then **MY GRADES**. You will only be able to see your own grades.
2. **Allow up to one week after the assignment due date for grading.** If it has been more than one week since you submitted an assignment and there is no grade posted, be sure to contact me.
3. All written assignments must contain your full name, Ozone email address, and assignment number/title (if applicable), and the **DUE DATE**.

GENERAL CLASS INFORMATION

Attendance and Class Participation

When a student completes an assignment, I consider that student as having attended class. A student participates in class when he/she completes assignments, ask questions about course content, and uses the Discussion Board.

Be prepared to:

- Access to the Blackboard course site at least two to three times per week.
- Check OZONE E-mail account regularly.
- Be able to take quizzes and tests in Respondus

Communication with your Classmates

You may communicate with your classmates through the **Discussion Board**.

Communication with your Instructor

Please email me at matthew_gosses@owens.edu. Be sure to sign your email with your full name and **indicate the course name, number, and section**. Your section is XXX. You will find this in your registration information or the Blackboard platform. Use **only** your OZONE email account. **DO NOT use a personal account**.

Schedule a virtual office visit during online office hours or at other times via email.

Please be patient. Yours is not the only class I am teaching this semester. There is a TIME hour response time on emails DATE and TIME hour response time on emails and phone messages DATE.

Computer Access

I expect students to have access to a computer with Internet connections. **Not having a computer at home, or having a malfunctioning computer crash, are not excuses for missed assignments or exams.** You need to keep up even if it means using a computer at your local library or the Owens campus, or elsewhere.

Many students with dial-up computer service have experienced dissatisfaction with the time it takes to access materials and exams, versus those with high-speed connections.

Please read **Responsibilities of a Web Student** in **Course Information on Blackboard**.

Documentation

You must keep copies of every document I send you and every document you send me until the conclusion of this course.

Create a file and save all documents in your email storage, or on your hard drive or flash drive. Each document must be saved with the date, day, and time it was sent.

Academic Calendar:

DATE	Semester begins
DATE	Last day of classes
DATE	Exam week
DATE	Commencement

Academic Support

Disability Services Resource Center: If you have a disability or acquire one, you may be entitled to receive reasonable accommodations intended to assure you an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from the program. To receive more information or to register for accommodations, please contact the Disability Resource Center at 567-661-7007, email disability@owens.edu, visit <https://www.owens.edu/disability/>, or stop by College Hall 124.

Tutoring Services: Owens Community College offers academic tutoring and assistance in a variety of subjects including: accounting, computing, economics, mathematics, science, and writing. For more information go to: <https://www.owens.edu/successcenters/>.

Counseling Services: Counseling Services provides assistance to students experiencing

personal, educational, interpersonal/relationship, family, social, or psychological difficulties. If you feel you may benefit from this service, please contact them at counselingservices@owens.edu. More information is at <https://www.owens.edu/counseling/>.

Campus and Community Connections: The Center for Campus and Community Connections (College Hall 151) is a walk-in office created to provide retention support through resource stability initiatives and community connections. Go here for more information: <https://www.owens.edu/connection/> or contact connections@owens.edu

Owens Library: The Owens Library offers two locations (Toledo and Findlay) as well as online resources. For more information visit <https://www.owens.edu/library/>.

Students can find more information on campus resources, student support, student life, and security at this [link](#).

General Information

Student Code of Conduct: All students are expected to follow Owens Community College's [Student Code of Conduct](#), which includes academic honesty, encompassing plagiarism. See the [Board Policy](#) for more information.

Anti-Discrimination and Harassment & Title IX/Sexual Misconduct: All students, faculty, and staff are expected to follow Owens Community College's [Anti-Discrimination and Harassment Policy](#) and the College's [Title IX Policy](#)/Sexual Misconduct Procedures and Guidelines. The College strictly prohibits and will not tolerate harassment, discrimination, intimidation, or hostile/offensive working or learning environments.

Religious Accommodations: A student seeking an accommodation for an absence permitted under Ohio's Testing Your Faith Act must provide the instructor with a written email notice with the specific dates for an absence, and must do so not later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of instruction. Alternative accommodations are not retroactive, and no academic penalty will be imposed for an absence under the policy*. The request for an alternative accommodation will be kept confidential. Students with questions about a religious accommodation under Ohio's Testing your Faith Act may contact the College's Office of Academic Affairs: provost@owens.edu
The policy may be found on the Owens website: [3358:11-2-63 Accommodation](#) for a Student Absence for the Observance of Religious Beliefs and Practices Policy

Document Collection: Throughout the semester, your instructors may ask for a variety of assignments including tests and/or quizzes for student learning of institutional general education competencies or program assessment. Please save all your class materials until the end of the semester.

Classroom Admittance: OCC classes shall only be attended by the officially registered

OCC students or perspective students, instructor of record, guest lecturer, or substitute. Visitors are not permitted to be in the classroom and should not be invited to attend or participate in the class. See [FERPA](#) regulations for more information.

Use of AI Tools: This course permits you to use artificial intelligence (AI) tools, such as chatbots, text generators, paraphrasers, summarizers, or solvers, to get guidance on assignments, as long as you do so in an ethical and responsible manner. Essentially, you can think of these tools as ways to help you learn but not to entirely create work for assignments like discussion board posts, essays, presentation slides, and so on. AI is more like your tutor or TA, not a replacement for your independent thinking.

This means that you must:

- Not use AI tools to replace your own thinking or analysis or to avoid engaging with the course content.
- Cite or explain any AI tools you use. Provide the name of the AI tool, the date of access, the URL of the interface, and the specific prompt or query you used to generate the output.
- Be transparent and honest about how you used the AI tool and how it contributed to your assignment. Explain what you learned from the AI tool, how you verified its accuracy and reliability, how you integrated its output with your own work, and how you acknowledged its limitations and biases.

You are accountable for any mistakes or errors made by the AI tool. Always check and edit the output before submitting your work. If you discover any inaccuracies or inconsistencies in the output after submission, notify the instructor immediately and correct them as soon as possible.

Using AI tools in an unethical or irresponsible manner, such as copying or paraphrasing the output without citation or transparency, using the output as your own work without verification or integration, or using the output to misrepresent your knowledge or skills, is considered a form of academic dishonesty and will result in a zero grade for the assignment and possible disciplinary action. If you have any questions about what constitutes ethical and responsible use of AI tools, please consult with the instructor **before** submitting your work.

NOTE: Some instructors will also list specific acceptable and unacceptable uses or include a statement like “All written assignments, projects, and exams must be completed independently.”

The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as necessary and will communicate amendments to students in the course. It is the responsibility of the student to regularly check emails and announcements for changes.

BIO 203 WEB Assignment Calendar – SEMESTER

- **Note: The first day of the semester is DATE.**
- Assignments have **TIME deadlines**. Please complete them according to the following calendar.

- Week 1:** Read the Preface, Introduction, and Chapter 1.
- **Discussion Board 1** due Sunday
 - **Quiz 1** is due Sunday
- Week 2:** Read Chapters 2-3.
- **Exam 1 over Chapters 1-3 opens DATE.**
 - **Quiz 2** on Chapters 2-3 due DATE.
- Week 3:** **Exam 1 due Monday at 11:59PM.**
- Read Chapters 4-5.
- **Quiz 3** on Chapters 4-5 due DATE.
 - **Discussion Board 2** due DATE.
 - Choose a book for your Book Report – submit your choice via Book Report Tab to submit by DATE.
- Week 4:** Read Chapter 6.
- **Quiz 4** on Chapters 6 due DATE.
 - **Discussion Board 3** due DATE.
- Week 5:** Read Chapters 7-8.
- **Exam 2 over Chapters 4-8 opens DATE at TIME.**
- Week 6:** **Exam 2 due Monday at 11:59PM.**
- Read Chapters 9-10.
- **Quiz 5** on Chapters 9-10 due on DATE.
 - **Discussion Board 4** due on DATE.
- Week 7:** Read Chapter 11.
- **Book Report Outline** (via Book Report Tab to submit) due Monday.
 - **Quiz 6** on Chapter 11 due DATE.
 - **Discussion Board 5** due on DATE.

- Week 8: 10/13-19** Read Chapters 12-13.
- Optional Volunteer Project Outline due DATE.
- Week 9: 10/20-26** **Exam 3 over Chapters 9-13 opens DATE**
- **Exam 3 due DATE at TIME**
 - Read Chapter 14.
 - **Quiz 7** on Chapter 14 due on DATE.
 - **Discussion Board 6** due DATE.
- Week 10: 10/27-11/2** Read Chapter 15.
- **Quiz 8** on Chapter 15 due DATE.
 - **Discussion Board 7** due DATE.
- Week 11: 11/3-9** Read Chapters 16-17.
- **Exam 4 over Chapters 14-17 opens DATE.**
- Week 12: 11/10-16** **Exam 4 due DATE at TIME.**
- Read Chapters 18-19.
- **Quiz 9** on Chapters 18-19 due DATE.
 - **Discussion Board 8** due DATE.
- Week 13: 11/17-23** Read Chapter 20.
- **Quiz 10** on Chapter 20 due DATE.
 - **Discussion Board 9** due DATE.
- Week 14: 11/24-12/1** Read Chapter 21
- **Book Report** due DATE.
- Week 15: 12/1-7** Read Chapter 22
- Optional Volunteer Project due DATE.
 - **Exam 5 over Chapters 18-22 opens DATE.**
- Week 16: 12/5-11** **Exam 5**

The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as necessary and will communicate amendments to students in the course. It is the responsibility of the student to regularly check emails and announcements for changes.