

BIO 109 Natural History of the Southwest
COURSE SYLLABUS Spring 2007

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

1. Instructor: Ms. Vashti (Tice) Supplee
2. Office: DB 202 and Off Campus.
3. Telephone(602) 380-3722: The answering service will take your message.
4. Office hours @ DB 202: T 9:30-12:00, Th 1:00-2:30pm
If you can't meet during my office hours because of a schedule conflict, another mutually convenient time can be arranged. If you need help, please let me know!
5. E-mail: vashti.supplee@pcmail.maricopa.edu or vsupplee@earthlink.net

CLASSROOMS & TIMES

- 1) Lectures: Section 0406 TR 8:00-9:15 am Room: DB 224
- 2) Labs: Section 0407 R 10:00-12:50 Lab: DB 106

MATERIALS

Required Textbook: [available at PC Bookstore]

- 1) A Natural History of the Sonoran Desert by AZ-SN Desert Museum.

Other Required Materials: [available at PC Bookstore, Staples or Office Max]

- 1) Bound notebook with sewn binding (ex. Marble notebook)

FIELD TRIPS

Two optional Saturday field trips are scheduled:

- 1) Besh-Ba-Gowah Archaeological Park in Globe, Arizona, visitors walk through a 700 year old Salado Culture pueblo, climb ladders to second story rooms and view the typical furnishings of the era. Pinal Peak south of Globe is Arizona's most northern "Sky Island". **Pack your own lunch and beverages**. Depart Saturday morning at 8AM from PC campus. Return by 7PM. An optional Lab will be offered at Phoenix College Library at the usual time on March 29th.
- 2) Sonoran Desert Museum west of Tucson: An all day field trip. Travel will be by carpool and Phoenix College vehicle. Students are asked to share gasoline expenses with the driver. Depart Saturday morning May 5th at 7AM from PC campus. Return by 7PM. An optional lab will be offered at the usual time on May 3rdth.

Five off-campus trips are planned in the time period of Thursday Lab. Each student is responsible for arriving at the location. The preceding Bio 109 lecture class will dismiss 15 minutes early to allow travel time. Admission fees are covered by your laboratory

fee. A student who misses these labs will be expected to make them up on their own time.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Each student will be asked to complete an emergency contact form that will be submitted to the Phoenix College Campus Security for participation in the Saturday fieldtrips.

ESSAY and SUPPLEMENTAL READING ASSIGNMENTS:

Essay

1. Ecology Explorers <http://caplter.asu.edu/explorers/>
2. Native Fish or Mexican Wolf or Desert Bald Eagle
3. Saguaro Case Study
4. Environmental Issue Evaluation
5. Final Reflection

Supplemental reading

1. Ethnobotany of the Southwest
2. Taxonomy and Describing Plants
3. Discovering the Desert
4. Water in Arizona
5. An Ecosystem
6. Governor's Report: Healthy Forests Initiative
7. Ecosystem Services: Benefits to Human Societies by Natural Ecosystems
8. Governor's Report: Invasive Species Task Force
9. An Inconvenient Truth

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

- 1) There are 1,000 total points available for the course:

Assignment	Number	Points	Total
Lab. Reports	12	20	240
Reading Notes	20	10	200
Notebook Checks	4	30	120
Essays	4	60	240
Essay # 4 is worth		100	100
Quizzes	5	20	<u>100</u>
TOTAL			1,000

- 2) Grading Information:

- a) **Twelve Lab. Reports** will be assigned worth a total of **240** points. Each lab report, worth 20 points, will consist of completing an exercise during class time in

the laboratory or the field. A report will be collected or checked off at the end of each lab or field trip.

- b) **Twenty Reading Notes** will be assigned worth a total of **200** points. Notes must include a summary paragraph of what you learned from the reading, the muddiest and clearest point (which part was hardest to understand, which part was easiest), and any other questions, comments and/or observations you have about the reading. (These should be in your notebook, see below)
- c) **Four Notebook Checks** will be assigned worth a total of **120** points. You should purchase a bound notebook with sewn binding (a marble notebook). Notebooks will consist of reading notes, field notes, lab notes, lecture notes, discussion notes, drafts etc. The contents of the notebook must be neatly arranged in chronological order according to the subjects and dates listed on the class schedule. Each topic and date must be identified on the page. The notebooks will be graded 3 times. The grade will be based on content and ease of retrieval. Each time the notebooks are graded the entries will be worth 40 points (see the Lecture and Lab Schedule for due dates).
- d) **Five Essays** will be assigned worth a total of **340** points. Each Essay will consist of completing a reading assignment from the textbook, finding and reading a related information item, and writing a one to two page paper worth 60 points. The only exception is Essay # 4 which will be a research paper worth 100 points. The essay writing will be completed as homework, and turned in at the time of the corresponding in class quiz (see the Lecture and Lab Schedule for due dates).
- e) **Five Quizzes** will be given worth a total of **100** points. Each of the Quizzes will cover an assigned reading and lecture series. Each Quiz will consist of 10 questions worth 2 points each (see the Lecture and Lab Schedule for quiz dates).
- f) **Three Optional Extra Credit Assignments** worth a total of **180** points. Each assignment is worth 60 points.
 - 1) Attend the Tres Rios Nature Festival in Goodyear, Arizona at Phoenix International Raceway and the Arizona Game and Fish Department B&M Wildlife Area. on March 17th. Complete the field trip report.
 - 2) Analyze the Ecology Explorers bird survey data for Phoenix College, choosing an element to evaluate (eg. bird species, bird numbers, compare the point survey sites, compare PC to another campus).

- 3) *Phoenix Library - Arizona Room Visit and research a historic Arizona person who contributed to the natural history knowledge of the state or select a historic topic. Provide a reference list of the resources you found on your selected person or topic.

- g) **One Optional Cumulative Final** will be given worth a total of **100** points. The final will cover the quiz material from the entire semester. The final is optional and a student may elect not to take it. The Final will consist of 20 questions worth 4 points each (see the Lecture and Lab Schedule for final date).

Make-up quizzes: If you miss a quiz, you may make it up if you **contact me prior to the quiz date** and we make arrangements. Otherwise, no make-up quizzes.

Late assignments: A 10% deduction of the original point value is the penalty for each day an assignment is late, up to five days. After five days, it will not be accepted.

3) Final Grades:

- a) The grade for the semester is determined by adding together all individual scores and calculating one final percent score:

A = 900+ points (90%+)

B = 800-899 points (80 through 89%)

C = 700-799 points (70 through 79%)

D = 600-699 points (60 through 69%)

F = 599 points or lower (Less than 60%)

CLASS POLICIES

- 1) Students must be registered for both lecture and lab concurrently. Anyone who is not registered cannot attend.
- 2) Absences and Tardiness:
- a) Attendance is required and will be recorded in the laboratory.
 - b) Six of the laboratory sessions will be held at off campus locations. It is the student's responsibility to meet at the field trip locations. Car pools will be arranged to facilitate transportation.
 - c) Unexcused absences, including social and family events, in excess of 2 for laboratory will result in your withdrawal from the course.
 - d) Excused absences are defined as the following: illness/accident (student), illness/accident/death (family member), jury/military duty, athletes participating in College sponsored athletic events. Verification of the reason for the absence is required on or before the day you will return to class/lab.

- e) Call me or e-mail me prior to the absence or as soon as possible after the absence.
- f) If you anticipate a change in attendance due to personal or work changes you must meet with me as soon as possible.

3) Student Initiated Withdrawals:

- a) If you wish to be withdrawn from class, for whatever reason, you must start withdrawal proceedings by notifying your instructor, do not just stop attending class and expect your instructor to withdraw you from class.

- b) Some important dates:

Friday, October 6: Last day for withdrawal without instructor signature

Monday, November 27: Last day for withdrawal with instructor signature

4) Student Services:

- a) If you are aware of any physical or non-physical disability that may affect your performance in class, please inform your instructor during the first week of class. Phoenix College's Disability Support Services can provide for some of the special needs of disabled students (See the Phoenix College Student Handbook pages A-13/A-14.). Disability Support Services include interpreting for the deaf, note taking, reading, testing accommodations, and accommodations for the learning disabled with documentation. Special Services is located in the Learning Center Building Phone: 602-285-7477.
- b) Phoenix College's Learning Center provides free tutoring, educational materials, computer-assisted instruction, and student development workshops. The Learning Center is located in the Learning Center Building.

5) Academic Dishonesty:

- a) Academic dishonesty includes cheating and plagiarism. A First offense will be given a score of 0 for the assignment. A Second offense will result in failure of the course. All incidents will be reported to the Biology Department Chairperson and to the Dean of Instruction. (See the Phoenix College Student Handbook pages C-7/C-8.) For your protection, please avoid even the appearance of academic dishonesty.

6) Disruptive Behavior:

- a) Disruptive behavior in class will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in accordance with college policy. (See the Phoenix College Student Handbook pages C-23/C-28.) Disruptive behavior includes harassment of other students or instructor and inappropriate or unsafe activities with respect to other students, instructors, equipment or supplies.

© Cartoonbank.com



"Listen, buster, I didn't sit on your hard little egg in the blazing sun for six weeks just to hear you say, 'Ewww, I don't like regurgitated yak carcass.'"