COURSE SYLLABUS Fall 2007
Phoenix College-Dalby Building

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 as scheduled with students. 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 5387 S 7:30-11:30A DB 225
2) Labs: Section 5389 S 12:00-4:00P 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)

COURSE OVERVIEW
Southwest Natural History is an introduction to the flora, fauna and geology of the southwest with an emphasis on the Sonoran Desert. Students will be taught the fundamental assumptions of scientific inquiry including critical thinking, taxonomic classification of living things, and the role of Darwinian evolutionary principles in understanding the adaptations and survival strategies of desert plants and animals. The course includes analysis of human effects on southwest landscapes and introduction to techniques and strategies to conserve and manage natural resources in the arid southwest environment.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
Learn the taxonomic relationships and natural history of common mammals, birds, fishes, arthropods and plants of the southwest.

Learn the major vegetation communities in Arizona and the vegetative and climatic characteristics of the four southwest deserts with an emphasis on the Sonoran Desert.

Learn the common birds that occur at the Phoenix College Campus and conduct three campus bird surveys and record the data at the Ecology Explorers web site.
Learn how riparian communities function and the importance of healthy riparian systems to water quality and quantity in the southwest.

Gain a basic understanding of the geologic events that shaped the topography of the southwest.

Develop a basic knowledge of ecosystems and the importance of biotic and abiotic factors. Be able to describe a food chain and a food web and explain what the term “ecological services” means.

Learn how pre-Columbian people adapted to the southwest environment and their usage of native plants. Develop an appreciation for how we can be stewards of the land in a desert environment.

Appreciate the influences, both positive and negative, of human activities in the southwest.

FIELD TRIPS
Three field trips are scheduled:
  1) Phoenix Zoo
  2) Desert Botanical Gardens
  3) South Mountain Preserve and Rio Salado Habitat

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 READING NOTES ASSIGNMENTS:
Essay #
2. Native Fish or Mexican Wolf or Desert Bald Eagle
3. Saguaro Case Study (Analysis of two readings)
4. Environmental Issue Evaluation
5. Final Reflection

Reading Notes Assignments #
1. Textbook pages 19-28; and pages 29-40
2. Textbook pages 461-505
3. Textbook pages 373-458
4. Textbook pages 533-585
5. Textbook pages 509-526 and pages 283-364
6. Textbook pages 367-372 and pages 529-531
7. Textbook pages 129-151 and pages 183-216 and Supplement 1 and 2
8. Textbook pages 41-50 and pages 71-104
9. Textbook pages 3-18 and Supplement 3 & 4
10. Textbook pages 105-126 and Supplement 5 & 6
11. 265-280 and Supplement 7 & 8

Supplemental Reading Titles and #
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

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:
1) There are 1,000 total points available for the course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lab. Reports</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>220</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Notes</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>220</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notebook Checks</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>Essays</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
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2) Grading Information:
a) Eleven Lab. Reports will be assigned worth a total of 220 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) **Eleven Reading Notes** will be assigned worth a total of **220** 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 4 times. The grade will be based on content and ease of retrieval. Each time the notebooks are graded the entries will be worth 30 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) **Four Quizzes** will be given worth a total of **120** points. Each of the Quizzes will cover an assigned reading and lecture series. Each Quiz will consist of 15 questions worth 2 points each (see the Lecture and Lab Schedule for quiz dates).

f) **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 and will be given at the end of class on December 15th.

**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) Three 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.
   Some important dates: Refer to the Academic Calendar on Page 106 of the Fall 2007 Class Schedule.
      1) Last day for withdrawal without an instructor signature-Friday October 5th
      2) Last day withdrawal accepted from student at Admissions and Records – Monday November 26th
      3) Final Exam Bio 109 - December 15th

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.