Bio 9K: Global Change Biology
Spring 2015

Syllabus

Objectives: The objectives of this course are (1) to address ways in which humans are altering environmental conditions, with consequences for the ecology of animals, plants, and microbes; and (2) to discuss how these biologically-oriented questions relate to human society, politics, and the economy.

Instructor: Dr. Kathleen Treseder
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TA: Will Petry
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Lectures: MWF 11:00-11:50 am, SH 134

Office hours: Kathleen: Wednesdays, 1–3 pm, 3106 BioSci III
Will: Wednesdays, 9–11 am, 3112 BioSci III (or by appointment)

Reading: Readings are required for many of the lectures, and they will be posted on the course website under “Lectures & Reading”

Website: The course web site can be accessed through UCI’s EEE site at <https://eee.uci.edu/15s/05050>. This site contains the syllabus, web links, readings, and Course Mailing List Archives. The slides for lectures will be posted 24 hours before each lecture, so that you may print out a copy of the slides for your notes.
Twitter: This course has a twitter feed for posts of news articles and information related to global change. 
<https://twitter.com/UCIGCB2015>

Grading: News comment 1 25 pts Due April 13
News comment 2 25 pts Due June 5
Water sampling 50 pts Due May 13
Exam 1 100 pts May 1
Exam 2 150 pts June 9, 1:30–3:30 pm

Grading will be approximately 90–100% = A, 80–89% = B, 70–79% = C, 60–69% = D, <60% = F.

All grades are final and non-negotiable. Upon request, we can check for mathematical or recording errors. We will not respond to requests for regrades for any other reason.

Exams: Tests will focus on problem solving and evaluation of experimental data. Questions will be multiple choice. They will be based primarily on the lectures, but can also include information from the assignments and reading. Exam 2 is a comprehensive final.

News comments: Students will post two on-line comments responding to news articles about global change. They will select two news articles from the class Twitter feed, and leave comments for each one in on-line comment sections of the news sites. The comments can submitted under a pseudonym, but students need to include “#UCIGCB2015” in their comment and notify Kathleen & Will that they left the comment. Up to 25 points will be earned for each comment.

Field sampling: Each student will collect one sample of ground water or ocean water from a location of their choosing in Southern California, and return it to Kathleen and Will so they can measure its nitrate concentration. Students will earn up to 50 points for collecting the sample and submitting the sample information to the class database.

Extra credit: We will offer up to 25 points extra credit for active participation in an optional in-class field trip to the Irvine Ranch Water District San Joaquin Marsh on Wednesday, April 22 at 11:00 am.

Absences: Students who miss a class are responsible for learning that day’s material on their own, either by borrowing a classmate’s notes or by studying the lecture slides (available on the course website). You may also ask Kathleen or Will questions about the material during their office hours or immediately after class.
**Academic honesty:** Students must adhere to all relevant University policies regarding academic integrity. No cheating or plagiarism is allowed, and any incidences must be reported. For details, please see the UCI policy on Academic honesty (http://www.editor.uci.edu/catalogue/appx/appx.2.htm).