

## BIO 7 - ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY AND CONSERVATION - Fall, 2008

**Instructor:** Dr. Michael Reed michael.reed@tufts.edu

**Teaching Assistant:** David DesRochers (david.desrochers@tufts.edu)

**Class Hours:** Tues, Wed, Fri 9:30-10:20 a.m.; Barnum 008

**Office Hours:** Reed: Dana 218, Wed 10:30-11:30, or by appointment

DesRochers: Barnum 216B, Thurs 10-12

**Reading assignments:** There is no text book. There might be reading assignments from the news – if so, they will be posted on blackboard and announced in class.

### Course Requirements:

- 1) Completion of three exams. (Note: there is no final, only a 3<sup>rd</sup> exam.)
- 2) Written, in-class, participation in 10 Breakout discussions.

### Grading:

- each exam = 25% of grade; breakouts = 25%
- Exams will be a mix of fill in the blank / multiple choice, short answers, & short essays.
- Exams are based in lectures, class discussions, and assignments.
- Exams will not be cumulative, except when material is repeated in the new exam period.
- I will grade on straight percentages, unless I find a reason to curve.
- If you have questions about your scores on particular questions from an exam, you have at most 1 week (weekend & vacation days included) from the day I first return exams to the class to return your exam plus a written explanation of why you believe your answer might deserve more points, comparing it to the posted key. Notes: (1) actual time might be less due to holiday schedule; (2) at this time, the entire exam might be re-evaluated, and points can be lost on a regrade.
  - Exam keys will be posted in the hallway outside Barnum 216 (not on Blackboard).
  - Make up exam policy: No make up exam without Doctor's excuse or equivalent; make up exams might have essay questions.

**Blackboard:** I will put outlines for each lecture, old exams, and announcements on the University's Blackboard site. Outlines will include definitions and diagrams. I will not post entire class presentations on the Blackboard. These are ONLY outlines – studying them will NOT be sufficient to pass the exams! \*\* If you add the class, email me so I can add you to the Blackboard site. \*\*

### Breakout Discussions

Regularly during the semester I will pose a problem to the class. Students will then form groups of 4-5 people to discuss the problem (during class) for ~10-15 min and summarize the answer(s) on a sheet of paper (a few sentences, bulleted points where appropriate). Each member of the group will write his/her own name on the page and hand in the page before we discuss the problem as a class. If multiple names are written by the same person, those names will receive a score of 0 for the breakout. Groups of >5 students also will receive a score of 0 for the breakout. For what I consider a reasonable effort by the group to address the problem, 5 points will be awarded; for less effort or incomplete answers 4 points; lower scores for poorer efforts. You must be present in class to take part in the group discussion. There are 12 Breakouts during the semester, and you will get credit for up to 10; if you participate in more than 10 breakouts, your 10 best scores will make up that grade. [over]

**Notes:** No, there is no extra credit – please don't ask.

No, there is no way to make up missed breakouts – please don't ask.

## Topics; Exam & Breakout dates

<b>Week of:</b>	<b>Topics:</b>	<b>Breakouts</b>
<b>Sept.</b>	1 Introduction; Sustainability; Legislation	Sept. 3
	8 Science; Ecosystems	Sept. 9
	15 Science; Sustainability; Ecosystems	Sept. 17
	22 Exotic Species	Sept. 23
	Sept 26: <b>EXAM 1</b>	
	30 Balance of nature; How to lie; Risk assessment	
<b>Oct.</b>	6 Risk cont'd; Energy; Pollution; Climate change	Oct. 7
	13 Climate change cont'd; Water; Mining; Desertification	Oct. 17
	20 Fisheries; Oceans; Evolution and Crops	Oct. 22
	27 Evolution and Crops	Oct. 28
	Oct. 31: <b>EXAM 2</b>	
<b>Nov.</b>	3 Economics; Deforestation	Nov. 4
	10 Managing Species and Ecosystems	Nov. 12
	17 Marine Conservation; Hunting; Restoration	Nov. 19
	24 Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases	
<b>Dec.</b>	1 Diseases cont'd; Human-wildlife conflict	Dec. 2
	Dec 5: <b>EXAM 3</b>	