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2018

### Zero Textbook Cost Syllabus for ENV 1003 (Fundamentals of Ecology-lecture)

Kuhuk Sharma

*CUNY Bernard M Baruch College*

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**ENV 1003: Fundamentals of Ecology**  
Fall 2018  
Tuesday, Thursday 10:45 am to 11:35 am

**Lecture instructor:** Kuhuk Sharma, PhD  
**Office:**  
**Office Hours:** via appointment  
**E-mail:**

**Course Description:**

Fundamentals of Ecology explores ecological characteristics and ecosystem processes through an evolutionary context. The course will demonstrate the interdisciplinary nature of the field of ecology by highlighting its significance to current environmental issues and the interconnectedness of the environment around us.

**Course Objectives (Learning Goals)**

1. Students will be introduced to the processes controlling and linking the dynamics of individuals, populations, communities, and ecosystems and be able to **describe** these processes and **explain** links among them.
2. Students will be able to **apply** this information in **discussing** the impacts of human and natural change on ecological communities.
3. Students will be able to use mathematical and conceptual models to **predict** impacts of change on behavior, populations, communities, and ecosystems.

All of the above concepts will be considered in relationship to the management and restoration of natural resources in the New York area and beyond. By the end of this course, you should be able **discuss** the complex linkages among biotic and abiotic factors that impact natural communities, **explain** how these factors may be measured, and **predict** impacts of change.

**Course Structure: The course will consist of a mixture of lecture and discussion activities.**

**Readings:** You will have assigned readings put up on the course link on Blackboard. **Material from these assignments may appear on the exams even though it may NOT be covered in lecture.**

**Discussions:** We will discuss the relevance of course topics to contemporary events as they occur and through directed readings.

**Recitation:** Recitation is a chance to review and expand on concepts that are introduced in lecture. You'll engage in discussions with your instructor and classmates on articles from various venues, be able to ask questions about homework and exams, and learn more about science and ecology. **Grades earned in recitation will count towards your overall grade.**



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**Course Materials and Tools: Note:** Lecture and lab (ENV 1004) are part of the new zero-textbook initiative at CUNY. Primary course material (text links, lecture slides) will be made available on the appropriate course blackboard link. Other assigned material (articles, papers) will be freely available from CUNY. We'll discuss finding articles in class. You should not have to purchase any resources.

Assignments will be posted and submitted via Blackboard. It is the student's responsibility to check the course website on a regular basis for new assignments. **All assignments will be submitted or facilitated (e.g., discussions) via Blackboard; assignments will not be accepted via email.**

**Additional Course Materials:** A laptop (or suitable internet device) will be needed for homework and classwork activities.

### **Lecture Assignments**

**Lecture Exams (2):** Exams will cover the assigned readings and class material up to the day of the exam.

**Homework:** There will be a total of 6 blackboard based, online quizzes (multiple choice questions) based on the material covered in class.

There will also be some HWs (short responses to papers) based on relevant articles discussed in lecture or during recitation. **Attempts will be made to announce homework in class, but assignments and due dates announced via Blackboard are considered final and over-ride any other information unless otherwise noted in writing.** It is the student's responsibility to check Blackboard for new assignments. At least 2 days will be given to submit any homework assignments (note: these may be focused on upcoming lectures).

**Classwork:** Classwork will take place in class (during lecture or recitation). These may include discussions, presentation, short quizzes on required readings, etc.

**Evaluation and Workload:** These determine the grade you earn for the course.

Midterm - Lecture Exam I:	25%
Final - Lecture Exam II:	25%
Online HW Quizzes	25%
Recitations Response papers/Write-ups	15%
Class discussion and presentations	10%
<b>Course Total:</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Grading Scale (%):**

A	93-100	A-	90-92.9		
B+	87.1-89.9	B	83-87	B-	80-82.9
C+	77.1-79.9	C	73-77	C-	70-72.9
D+	65-69.9	D	60-64.9		
F	0-59.9				

**Course Policies:** These policies are based on ideas of fairness and respect.

***Grading Policies:*** Final course grades are non-negotiable and will NOT be curved or rounded in any way. Grades for individual assignments may or may not be curved depending on the class results. If a curve is instituted, I will determine a fair and reasonable curve which will be applied to each individual's grade.

Grade changes will be made only to correct clerical errors. **Complaints about grades on individual assignments must be submitted in writing within a week following the return of the relevant assignment. Only reasonable and well-justified complaints will be considered.**

***Make up exams and late assignments:*** If you are ill, please do not come to class.

**Exams:** Make up exams will only be given if appropriate medical documents can be provided. The makeup exam may be multiple choice questions OR a comprehensive write up OR short answers.

There will be no makeup exam for the Lecture final. **Completion of the final exam is required to pass the course.**

**Homework and Classwork:** Late homework, quiz attempts and classwork **will not** be accepted.

There will be **no extra credit** assignments during the semester.

**Distracting activities will be noted and, if continued, will lead to a dismissal from class. All work you submit in any form must be your own or properly attributed.**

***Attendance policy:*** Students are responsible for material covered during class. Attendance may be included in grading via in-class discussions or activities which cannot be made up.

***Disability or crisis issues:*** Students with disabilities may receive assistance and reasonable accommodations to enable them to participate fully and equally in courses at Baruch College. To establish the accommodations appropriate for each student, please alert your instructor to your needs and contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities. For more information contact Lillian Shmulevich, Assistant Director of this office in B2271 or at (646) 3124590. If a major issue arises during the semester (family death, accident, etc.) please let me, the Departmental office, (506, 17 Lexington Avenue Building) or the Student Affairs

office (deanofstudents@baruch.cuny.edu, 646-312-4570) know so efforts can be made to aid you during this time.

**Academic Integrity:** I fully support Baruch College's policy on Academic Honesty, which states, in part:

"Academic dishonesty is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Cheating, forgery, plagiarism and collusion in dishonest acts undermine the college's educational mission and the students' personal and intellectual growth. Baruch students are expected to bear individual responsibility for their work, to learn the rules and definitions that underlie the practice of academic integrity, and to uphold its ideals. Ignorance of the rules is not an acceptable excuse for disobeying them. Any student who attempts to compromise or devalue the academic process will be sanctioned. "

Academic sanctions in this class will range from a D or F on the section or assignment to a D or F in this course and are at my discretion. A report of suspected academic dishonesty will be sent to the Office of the Dean of Students. Additional information and definitions can be found at [http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/academic/academic\\_honesty.html](http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/academic/academic_honesty.html)

**Personal responsibilities and class etiquette:** I understand everyone's time is valuable and that you (or someone) are (is) paying for you to pursue a higher education degree, which marks you as having achieved a goal. In light of this:

- My responsibility and goal is **to guide students, as active learners, in becoming critical thinkers who can evaluate and assimilate material from across the spectrum of biology and connect it to other disciplines and their everyday life.** We will accomplish this through class activities, and I will **fairly** evaluate your progress in this area through the methods noted above. I will **respect** your time and effort by attempting to start on time, promptly respond to emails and grade assignments (less than 1 week from receipt), being available for help, and attempting to make class as engaging and relevant as possible. I will regularly seek feedback in these areas through short surveys.
- Your responsibility is to be an active, engaged student who does not detract from class activities. **We will utilize an inverted classroom or discussion-based approach as much as possible, so I expect you to arrive prepared for class.** Please arrive on time and plan to stay **engaged** for the entire class. Take part in discussions, ask questions as needed, and stay off personal devices (phones, facebook, etc).

### **Additional Information: Environmental Sciences at Baruch College**

**Biological Sciences Major:** The Department of Natural Sciences offers a major in biological sciences that allow students to choose from a diversity of courses. Following an introductory series of courses focused on building a firm foundation in the natural sciences (biology, chemistry, physics, genetics) and math, students can choose from a range of elective courses and

may focus on courses related to environmental science, ecology, and conservation and sustainability.

***Tier III minor in Environmental Sustainability:*** The Department of Natural Sciences offers a minor in environmental sustainability for students that wish to pursue general intellectual interests or specific career objectives. For example, business students may improve their marketability with knowledge of current issues in environmental sustainability, and public affairs or pre-law students may gain knowledge for future specialization in environmental law or policy. For the environmental sustainability Tier III minor, students take two environmentally-themed, interdisciplinary courses at the 3000 level or above followed by the capstone course, ENV 4900—Topics in Environmental Science.

***The Arts and Sciences Ad Hoc Major in Natural Science Areas:*** It is also possible to design an ad hoc major that combines ENV courses with additional sciences and courses in other fields. Please inquire for more information.

**More information on getting involved in research and classes is available @**  
[https://blogs.baruch.cuny.edu/environmentalscience/join\\_us/](https://blogs.baruch.cuny.edu/environmentalscience/join_us/)