

Introductory Ecology – BIO 262
University of Rhode Island – Summer Session I 2026
Monday and Wednesday 6-8:30 pm, Swan 202
Dr. Scott Ruhren

Week	Class	Topic	Textbook
1:	May 18	Course introduction – Science of ecology Ecology of individuals on land and water	Chapters 1-5
5	May 20	Ecology and the environment (Reflection 1 due May 25 th)	Chapters 1-
2:	May 25	Memorial Day Holiday (no class)	
	May 27	Evolutionary ecology and populations	Chapters 6-11
	May 29	Makeup for Monday May 26 th (Reflection 2 due May 31 st)	Chapters 6-11
3:	June 1	Community ecology and interactions	Chapters 12-15
	June 3	Exam I (Reflection 3 due June 8 th)	
4:	June 8	Community to ecosystem ecology	Chapters 16-21
	June 10	Ecosystem and larger-scale ecology (Reflection 4 due June 15 th)	Chapters 16-21
5:	June 15	Large-scale ecology	Chapters 21-25
	June 17	Final Exam	

Course Philosophy:

This course is a broad introduction to the broad subject known as ecology, a discipline that draws on many subjects. It is expected that you have had basic biology. *Introductory Ecology* is a lecture-based course supplemented with short writing assignments and discussion topics. Examinations test for knowledge from lectures and readings and the ability to synthesize facts. Please keep up with the readings and assignments; you will benefit.

Instructor: Scott Ruhren, Ph.D.
 Department of Biological Sciences

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Please feel free to contact me if you have questions during the semester.

Required Textbook: Bowman, Hacker and Cain. 2025. *Ecology*, 6th Edition (5th similar) Oxford.

Grading:		Distribution of Points	Approximate Grade Cutoffs	
Exam I	40%		≥ 90%	= A- to A
Final Exam	40%		80-89%	= B- to B
Ecology Reflections	20%		70-79%	= C- to C
Total Possible Points =	100%		60-69%	= D- to D
			< 60%	= F

Exams and Assignments: Exams will be written from lecture material unless stated otherwise. What is presented in lecture is what you will see on the exams. All exams will be mixed format (multiple choice, short answer, true/false) and are equally weighted. You will submit assignments through the course Brightspace site. If you have an absence or conflict please contact me as soon as possible to make arrangements.

Attendance: There are no points awarded for attendance. **Documented medical illnesses, emergencies, observance of religious holidays or participation in university-sanctioned athletics or events are the only valid excuses for missing classes and deadlines.** Students are responsible for all missed notes and work. Finally, extra credit will not be available.

Academic Integrity: According to University of Rhode Island policy, “allegations of misconduct (which includes fabrication, falsification and plagiarism) in research and scholarship must promptly be reported directly to the Vice Provost for Graduate Studies, Research and Outreach.”

Special Needs: Students with documented disabilities should inform the instructor as soon as possible so that accommodations can be made. Students should also contact Disability Services for Students, Office of Student Life, 3390 Memorial Union, Kingston Campus (phone: 874-2098). All situations are confidential.

Outside Help: Success in this course requires that you keep up with the class work and study the course materials effectively. The Academic Enhancement Center on the fourth floor of Roosevelt Hall can help. Their friendly staff of learning specialists and student tutors can help you find an approach to studying that suits your needs and schedule, develop effective study strategies, understand course concepts and practice productively. The center is also a great place to go and study on your own, with space available for individuals or groups. All services are free. You can call them for complete information at 874-2367 or check www.uri.edu/aec.

Illness Due to Covid, Flu etc.: If any of us develop flu-like symptoms, we are being advised to stay home until the fever has subsided for 24 hours. So, if you exhibit such symptoms, notify me of your status. We will work together to ensure that course instruction and work is completed for the semester. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have posted simple methods to avoid transmission of illness. These include: covering your mouth and nose with tissue when coughing or sneezing; frequent washing or sanitizing your hands; avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth; and staying home when you are sick. For more information please view www.cdc.gov/flu or flu.gov <<http://www.cdc.gov/flu%20or%20flu.gov>>. URI Health Services web page, www.health.uri.edu <<http://www.health.uri.edu>>, will carry advice and local updates.

BRIGHTSPACE SUPPORT SERVICES

The ITS Service Desk, located in the URI Library, is prepared to help students should they encounter problems with Brightspace. For login problems, call the Service Desk at 874-4357. The Service Desk Website, <https://web.uri.edu/its servicedesk/> opens in new window, posts the semester operating schedule as well as a link on the right index to the self- help technical wiki. That site contains Brightspace help and instructions for both students and faculty. Recommended browsers are Google Chrome, Safari, and Mozilla Firefox. The mobile versions of these browsers also work well with the majority of operations in Brightspace. Internet Explorer is not recommended.