



BIOL/EVPP 350 Freshwater Ecosystems Lecture Syllabus Fall 2009



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Course Web Site: Go to <http://courses.gmu.edu>, log in with your email name and your GMU email password, then select BIOL 350-001. All information, both lecture and lab, will be in this location.

Course Description and Goals: This course is an overview of the ecology of freshwater ecosystems including lakes, streams, and wetlands. It will examine the physical, chemical, and biological processes and their interrelationships. Students will learn basic concepts in hydrology, water quality, biological assessment, and trophic ecology as well as becoming familiar with the freshwater flora and fauna. After completion of the course, students should have a broad knowledge of the functioning of these systems.

Through such capability, each student should be relatively well prepared to contribute to freshwater ecology research and management projects.

Course Content and Instructional Methods: The course consists of a coupled lecture and lab; both must be taken concurrently and your grade will depend on your performance in both venues. Below is a list of lecture topics by week. Lectures will consist of power point presentations that will be posted to our course on the day of the lecture. Attached below is schedule of topics and assignments, including readings from our text (page numbers) and attached resources sheet, that supplement and elaborate on the lectures. A zipfile containing a hyperlinked version of this resource sheet and off-line links to all underlying materials can be downloaded from our course web site.

Grading (lecture and lab):	3 mid term exams:	100 pts each
	Cumulative Final:	50 pts*
	Lab participation:	50 pts**
	Lab Paper:	100 pts**

* See "self-test quizzes" in the Resources list below to help you prepare for the cumulative final exam.

** Graded by lab instructor.

Honor Code: Adherence to the *GMU Honor Code* is expected of all students, specifically:

Members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.

In all assignments and communications, **plagiarism** will not be tolerated. This applies equally to oral and written communications in the context of any evaluated (graded) course assignments. In presenting quotes, paraphrasing statements or logical arguments from others in any medium (on-line, oral or written), students should properly cite their source. Results of team work should only be attributed to those who directly contribute to the final product (even if more than those people were designated as being part of the team). Any or all members of a student team may be held accountable for any Honor Code violations in their shared work. Any public usage of original material from this course (e.g., presentations, images, etc.) without explicit permission of its creator shall be construed as stealing. As stated in the Honor Code, infractions may result in invalidated credit for dishonorable work and lowered grade, including failure from the class, suspension or dismissal. Inquiries for clarification from the professor are welcome. Thank you in advance for your conscious attention to these issues.

Absenteeism Policy: Due to the exceptional threat posed by pandemic flu this season, students who promptly inform the professor of their flu symptoms (see underline below) are then *strongly urged* to stay at home, per CDC direction below. **Do not come to class** until 24 hours after any [$\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$] fever passed without medication. Insofar as students adhere to the GMU Honor Code when declaring their flu-related need to work from home, they will be eligible to receive reasonable accommodation for their illness, as deemed appropriate by the professor.

At flu.gov, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends 4 main ways you may keep from getting sick with and transmitting the flu to others on campus:

1. **Practice good hand hygiene** by washing your hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
2. **Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.** If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow or shoulder; not into your hands.
3. **Stay home or at your place of residence if you are sick** for at least 24 hours after you no longer have a fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit or 38 degrees Celsius) or signs of a fever (have chills, feel very warm, have a flushed appearance, or are sweating). This should be determined without the use of fever-reducing medications (any medicine that contains ibuprofen or acetaminophen). Staying away from others while sick can prevent others from getting sick too. Ask a roommate, friend, or family member to check up on you and to bring you food and supplies if needed.
4. **Talk to your health care provider** to find out if you should be vaccinated for seasonal flu and/or 2009 H1N1 flu. Information about 2009 H1N1 flu vaccination can be found at: www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination. Information about seasonal flu vaccine can be found at: www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/keyfacts.htm.

If flu conditions become MORE severe, students, faculty, and staff should consider the following steps:

- ◆ **Extend the time you stay home or at your residence** to at least 7 days, even if you feel better sooner. If you are still sick after 7 days, continue to stay home until at least 24 hours after your symptoms have completely gone away. Symptoms of flu include fever or chills *and* cough or sore throat. In addition, symptoms of flu can include runny nose, body aches, headache, tiredness, diarrhea, or vomiting.
- ◆ **Prepare for the possibility suspension of classes** by planning to continue your work at home (e.g., homework packets, Web-based lessons, phone calls), and find a place where you can stay either by going to your home, home of a relative, or close friend of the family.