

**OGLALA LAKOTA COLLEGE**  
Course Syllabus for

**Field Ecology (Bio 303)**

**Fall 2010**

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*Instructor:* Alessandra Higa  
*Class meet:* Wednesdays from 9am - 12pm (date/time may change accordingly to fieldwork schedule/needs) at HSCC/PHCC and/or in the field  
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Course Description

Field Ecology (Bio 303): This course will provide students hands on training and experience in ecological field research methods in ecosystems in southwestern South Dakota. Training will include use of common field research techniques and equipments. Techniques for sampling vertebrates (e.g. mammals, reptiles and amphibians) communities will be covered.

Prerequisites and Credits

Ecology (Bio 223) completed with a grade of “C” or better, or permission of the instructor. 3 Credits

Required Text(s)

- 1) Vodopick, D.S. 2010. *Ecology Laboratory manual*. McGraw-Hill. ISBN 978-0-07-338318-7.

Supplementary Materials

Supplementary materials will be given during the semester, as needed.

Descriptive Reading Load

It is imperative that you *read* the scheduled chapters and/or scientific papers assigned *before* coming to class in order to be prepared for discussion and participation. Reading is an important key to success in this class. Grade 14 reading level.

Writing Expected

Assignments and essay questions must be written in complete sentences. Simply copying sentences from the textbook/scientific articles/internet/etc. constitutes *plagiarism* and *will not be accepted*. Copying from any font including other students' homework results in full *nullification* of any work submitted. You are, though, encouraged to work together and form study groups to solve homework problems, complete field notes, and discuss research topics.

### Critical Thinking

Critical thinking and reasoning are part of any well-rounded education. Various modules and projects that are not connected to the content of the textbook will require the student to think independently and critically and come up with a well-reasoned conclusion.

### Research

You will be required to research about any topic related to field ecology. To fulfill this objective you will: 1) collect information from scientific publications, scientific collections, local agencies reports, on topics related to your subject; 2) analyze the data/text compilation; 3) write a scientific report, and 4) prepare a presentation. Your reports should be written in scientific style with references to information sources cited in the text and should contain a literature cited section at the end that list all publication data necessary for anyone to find your source papers.

### Lakota Perspective Provided Through: Wolakolkiciyapi

Students are encouraged to display the Lakota values of respect, knowledge, generosity, fortitude, truthfulness, and courage as you perceive such.

### Course Philosophy

You are not studying and learning for the instructor, but for yourself. Grades are important for your academic career; nevertheless, your professional life really begins after you graduate. Understanding field ecology will help you not only in your professional career, but also to understand and appreciate your surroundings and life itself.

### Class Attendance and Course Requirements

1. To succeed in this course, **regular attendance** is imperative. Your presence and participation is critical to your achievement. In accordance with OLC policy, you will be dropped from the course if you miss more than three consecutive class periods or if you miss more than five class periods during the semester.
2. If you plan to miss class you must contact the instructor **in advance** by e-mail. It is **your responsibility** to make sure you receive all assignments and instructions.
3. If for some reason a student decides to drop this class, it is the **student's responsibility** to fill out and submit a drop card to the center staff or registrar. Failure to follow this procedure will result in a final grade of "F" at the end of the semester.  
*Note: This instructor will not submit a drop card (do the paper work) for any student.*
4. All OLC and Math & Science departmental policies apply to this class.

## Evaluations and Markings

1. **Field notes:** All students are required to maintain a field notebook where they will write a detailed journal of the field activities. No specific model or type is required. Field notes must be written in a scientific format (*e.g. Grinnel's style*) as discussed and exemplified during the first lecture.
2. **Homework:** keep your field notes updated, writing your detailed journal, reading chapters and handouts, completing required exercises, and carrying out your research.
3. **Research:** Keep all your data and notes in a notebook. This procedure enables to better organize and analyze your data during the research project. These assignments are multifaceted: (1) you will gain experience on field ecology; (2) you will learn how to search for scientific information, analyze data and, (3) you will gain experience by writing and presenting your results in a scientific format.
4. **Exams and grading procedures:** There will be no exams. The final grade will rest on your *attendance* and the quality of your *field notes* (individual) and *final scientific report/presentation*. A copy of your field notes must be given to the instructor no later than 10 days after every fieldwork.

## Grading

<b>Grade</b>	<b>The following scale will be used:</b>
Field notes 30%	A = 90% - 100%
Field, class, and home work 20%	B = 80% - 89.9%
Final scientific report 30%	C = 70% - 79.9%
Final presentation 20%	D = 60% - 69.9%
<i>Total</i> 100%	F = below 60%

**\*\*Note:** Information contained in this syllabus was, to the best knowledge of the instructor, considered correct and complete when distributed for use at the beginning of the semester. The instructor reserves the right to make changes in the syllabus in collaboration with the class with reasonable notice to all concerned.