STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

NEW PALTZ

Introduction to Animal Life – Bio 111 – 3 credits Fall 2016

Michael Boms – Instructor Tuesday, Friday

CSB 221

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Required Text: Ecology – Essentials of Ecology - Miller, Spoolman

**Course Description and Objectives**

1. To become familiar with the principles of Ecology.

2. To understand the roles of organisms in their environment (especially in the

Hudson Valley).

3. To understand human influence in the earth’s ecosystem.

4. To develop a further understanding of environmental concerns and their impact

on our daily lives.

**Course Organization**

We meet 2 times per week, 1 1/4 hours per day. Attendance is imperative. ***The allowable maximum number of absences is 3.*** It is the responsibility of the student to make up any missed work due to absences. The student is responsible for all work assigned.

Grading is based on tests (quizzes, midterm, final), active student component in the form of a research paper and active participation in class discussions.

The active student component (research paper) is due prior to the final exam (***a week before the last week of the semester***). The research paper is a minimum of 5 double-spaced pages with a bibliography. The topic for the research paper will deal with any environmental concern that the student feels is very important and one that will have a great impact on every living thing. We will discuss in class some of the environmental concerns facing us. The students will notify me either through

e-mail or personally by mid-semester, their topic of interest for their research paper.

I am available before and after class or any time convenient for the both of us. You can e-mail any concerns you have about the course and its contents.

What I want to stress on the students is the need to be update on the assignments. Most of the assignments are readings in the text prior to our discussion in class which will then allow the students to participate in any discussion that follows. Keeping abreast of any current news items is encouraged.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

Topic Assignment

1. Environmental Problems Chapter 1

2. What is Ecology Chapter 2

3. Ecosystems Chapter 3

4. Biodiversity and Evolution Chapter 4

5. Species Interaction and Population Control Chapter 5

6. Human Population and Its Impact Chapter 6

7. Climate and Biodiversity Chapter 7

8. Aquatic Biodiversity Chapter 8

9. Sustaining Biodiversity Chapter 9

10. Sustaining Terrestrial Biodiversity Chapter 10

11. Sustaining Aquatic Diversity Chapter 11

12. Environmental Concerns

Climate Crisis

Hydrofracking

Air Pollution

Water Pollution

Food Adulteration