Midland College
Syllabus
2008-09
BIOL 2306 and BIOL 2106
Environmental Biology Lecture and Laboratory
(biome emphasis varies with destination)

Course Description:
This Environmental Biology (Biol 2306) course stresses human interaction with and the effect upon plant and animal communities. Conservation, pollution, energy and other contemporary ecological problems are also addressed.

The laboratory portion of this course (Biol 2106) is an introduction to basic laboratory techniques that will demonstrate and verify principles presented.

Emphasis will be on the characteristics and adaptations of animals and plants of the rain forest.

Text, References, and Supplies:
Selected readings for lecture.
Laboratory Manual: Margaret Wade, Ed. D., Characteristics of the Rain Forest, Midland College

Course Goals/Objectives:
Students will learn the basic principles of environmental investigation using visual observation and chemical testing. Students will identify the various aspects that characterize a tropical rain forest. Comparisons and contrasts between the characteristics of a rain forest biome and other biomes will also be made. Students will identify various typical plant and animal species and discuss the characteristics of these species that best adapt them to their environment. The effects of acid deposition will be discussed.

Students will learn techniques to identify various animal and plant species and will conduct various chemical tests.

Student Contributions and Class Policies:
Because the laboratory activities all occur during a one week period, students are expected to participate every day. A minimum of 48 hours will be spent in the field.

For safety concerns, students are expected to follow all safety guidelines as instructed.

Evaluation of Students:
5 lecture exams will be given and a research paper on a specific biome will be required.
The lab grade is pass (P)/fail (F). Satisfactorily participating in 70% of all
laboratory activities is required for earning a P.

Course Schedule:

See attached schedule.

**Intellectual Competencies:**

1. **Reading** - Understanding the material incorporated in the text used in this course will require the student to analyze and interpret various biological concepts.

2. **Listening** - The primary teaching methods used in this course are discussion and lecture. Understanding the oral presentation of material will require the student to analyze and interpret various biological concepts.

3. **Critical Thinking** - Critical thinking, as exemplified by problem solving, is inherent in the study of any scientific discipline. Biological problems will be considered, discussed, and analyzed in this course.

**ADA Statement:** Any student who, because of a disabling condition, may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible. These conditions may include documented physical or educational disabilities. Please be aware that services or accommodations are not automatic. Each student must request them and secure the proper authorizations.

**Instructor Information:** Dr. Margaret Wade

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