

**IB 203 Ecology Merit Workshop (IB 299); Fall 2021**  
**Mon 3:00 – 4:50pm; Natural History Bldg, Rm. 2090**

Instructors: Allison O'Dwyer (she/her), Instructor, School of Integrative Biology

- Office: Natural History Bldg. Room 2012
- Office Hours: By appointment via Zoom
- aodwyer@illinois.edu



Welcome to Ecology 203 Merit!

**Purpose, Philosophy, and Student Learning Outcomes:** In merit workshops you will develop your knowledge of ecology and scientific inquiry by actively engaging in group discussions, activities, and class presentations. In merit workshops you will develop your knowledge of ecology and scientific inquiry by actively engaging in group discussions, activities, and class presentations.

Each week we will review material from the IB 203 lectures by working on problems designed to challenge and improve your critical-thinking skills. Merit is driven largely through cooperation in a group setting. You will not only be responsible for your own education, but also contributing and helping your peers in class.

Merit also serves the purpose of helping to build community in these undergraduate courses. See this course as a great way to build academic relationships with your peers as collaborative learning is very important to the process of science.

**Contacting Your Instructor:** The best way to contact me is by email (aodwyer@illinois.edu). I typically respond promptly (within 24 hours), but if you do not hear from me within 48 hours, please feel free to send me another email.

**Office Hours:** Office hours will be held remotely via Zoom. In order to best facilitate your schedules, I am happy to meet when it is most convenient for you. One-on-one meetings with your Merit instructor can be for exam prep, clarification of content, or any questions related to the School of Integrative Biology. I am also happy to help facilitate group study sessions before exams.

**Grading:** You will receive a grade for your weekly preparation and participation – through IB 299 (1 credit hour, independent of your grade in IB 203). There will be two components to your grade:

**1. Attendance:** 5 points possible each class period (50% of merit grade)

- Come to class on time and be ready to participate meaningfully with your peers. Remember a large part of Merit is community building!

**2. Participation In-Class:** 5 points possible each class period (50% of merit grade)

- Actively engage in group activities and contribute ideas during discussion, and answer questions during class.
- Project a positive, cooperative attitude when working with group members.

- Complete the assigned work within the discussion time.
- Be on time! It is difficult to participate (and disruptive to your group members) if you arrive late to class. **Points will be deducted for tardiness.**
- We will follow the IB 203 course policies for excused absence criteria. Please read the COVID-19 information below in regards to absences. **If you are sick, stay home. I will work with you to get caught up.**

### Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage
A+, A, A-	97-100, 94-96.5, 90-93.5
B+, B, B-	87-89.5, 84-86.5, 80-83.5
C+, C, C-	77-79.5, 74-76.5, 70-73.5,
D+, D, D-	67-69.5, 64-66.5, 60-63.5
F	Below 59.5

### COVID-19 Information

Following University policy, all students are required to engage in appropriate behavior to protect the health and safety of the community. Students are also required to follow the campus COVID-19 protocols.

Students who feel ill must not come to class. In addition, students who test positive for COVID-19 or have had an exposure that requires testing and/or quarantine must not attend class. The University will provide information to the instructor, in a manner that complies with privacy laws, about students in these latter categories. These students are judged to have excused absences for the class period and should contact the instructor via email about making up the work.

Students who fail to abide by these rules will first be asked to comply; if they refuse, they will be required to leave the classroom immediately. If a student is asked to leave the classroom, the non-compliant student will be judged to have an unexcused absence and reported to the Office for Student Conflict Resolution for disciplinary action. Accumulation of non-compliance complaints against a student may result in dismissal from the University.

#### Face Coverings

All students, faculty, staff, and visitors are required to wear face coverings in classrooms and university spaces. This is in accordance with CDC guidance and University policy and expected in this class.

Please refer to the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign's COVID-19 website for further information on face coverings. Thank you for respecting all of our well-being so we can learn and interact together productively.

## **Building Access**

In order to implement COVID-19-related guidelines and policies affecting university operations, instructional faculty members may ask students in the classroom to show their Building Access Status in the Safer Illinois app or the Boarding Pass. Staff members may ask students in university offices to show their Building Access Status in the Safer Illinois app or the Boarding Pass. If the Building Access Status says “Granted,” that means the individual is compliant with the university’s COVID-19 policies—either with a university-approved COVID-19 vaccine or with the on-campus COVID-19 testing program for unvaccinated students.

Students are required to show only the Building Access Screen, which shows compliance without specifying whether it was through COVID-19 vaccination or regular on-campus testing. To protect personal health information, this screen does not say if a person is vaccinated or not. Students are not required to show anyone the screen that displays their vaccination status. No university official, including faculty members, may ask students why they are not vaccinated or any other questions seeking personal health information.

## **Accommodations**

To obtain disability-related academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids, students should contact both the instructors and the Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) as soon as possible (<https://www.disability.illinois.edu>). You can contact DRES at 1207 S. Oak Street, Champaign, (217) 333-1970, or via email at [disability@illinois.edu](mailto:disability@illinois.edu).

## **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)**

In forming an inclusive course, we mean a course that values and creates space for all identities such as those based on ethnicity, culture, sexual identity, gender identity, religious identity and beyond. Research shows that inclusive courses allow for better learning outcomes, a more positive learning experience, better community, and better leadership training in engaging humanity.

In order to create an inclusive space in this course, we must all work to collaboratively create a safe and respected space that supports and encourages everyone to share their views and concerns. We must value multiple perspectives and experiences, while also reducing student experiences of marginalization. We must treat each other as individuals.

Students are encouraged to share any feedback on how instructors, TAs, or fellow students could work to better create this inclusive space. Feedback can be given to the instructors at any time, anonymously using our Inclusivity Feedback Form on Moodle (you may need to access this form via your Illinois Google Apps account, but know that the form is still anonymous).

## **Attendance**

See COVID-19 information above. We realize that you have a life beyond the scope of this course. However, if you are unable to complete an assignment/attend class because of other obligations, you should notify the instructors ahead of time. It is good practice to prepare/post any assignments early before a planned absence.

Regular class attendance is expected of all students, but the lowest participation score for class attendance will be dropped to allow for extenuating circumstances. Again, students should inform instructors in advance of missing class and generally adhere to the guidelines specified in the UIUC Student Code ([http://studentcode.illinois.edu/article1\\_part5\\_1-501.html](http://studentcode.illinois.edu/article1_part5_1-501.html)). ***Reminder, if you are sick, stay home.***

### **Academic Integrity**

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Examples of academic dishonesty include the following:

- Cheating
- Fabrication
- Facilitating infractions of academic integrity
- Plagiarism
- Bribes, favors, and threats
- Academic interference
- Examination by proxy
- Grade tampering
- Non-original works

Should an incident arise in which a student is thought to have violated academic integrity, the student will be processed under the disciplinary policy set forth in the Illinois Academic Integrity Policy, using the FAIR system. If you do not understand relevant definitions of academic infractions, contact your instructors for an explanation within the first week of class.