

**BIOL 208 Principles of Ecology**

*3 Credits, 3 hours lecture and 3 hours lab per week*

Biology 208 deals with the principles of ecology including the interactions between organisms and their environment resulting in the formation of communities, ecosystems and biomes. Biology 208 is a core course in the department of biology and is required for animal biology, bioinformatics, cell biotechnology, environmental biology, evolutionary biology, microbiology, molecular genetics, physiology, and plant biology.

*Must have completed BIOL 108 – An Introduction to Biodiversity*

**Instructor**

Dr. David Smith  
S209B  
780-791-4997  
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**Office Hours**

Monday to Friday 12:00 PM – 12:50 PM, S209B

**Hours of Instruction**

Lecture: Tuesday 3:00 – 4:20, S110  
Wednesday 1:00 – 2:20 S110

Laboratory: Friday 9:00 – 11:50, CC234 or in field

**Required Resources**

Molles, M.C. and A. Laursen. 2020. Ecology: Concepts and Applications, Fifth Canadian Edition McGraw Hill Reyerson, Toronto. 1260065812 · 9781260065817

**Full outdoor apparel for fall and winter weather including suitable footwear****Course Outcomes**

The student will be able to:

- Demonstrate familiarity with the fundamental principles of how ecological systems are structured and how they function at organismal-, population- and community-levels of biological organization
- Identify the major biotic and abiotic selective forces that contribute to differential survivorship, and to assess how organisms respond to these challenges on a short term and long term basis, and how these responses contribute to the structure and function of ecological systems
- Explain the mechanisms of organic evolution in an ecological context
- Successfully participate in the range of activities used by ecologists, including the collection of data from laboratory and field studies, the use and interpretation of relevant scientific literature, and the understanding and analysis of qualitative and quantitative information
- Demonstrate the development of ecological literacy in topical local, regional, and global issues

**Evaluation**

Assignments -15% due one week after each lab

Written report and oral presentation - 20% due week of November 20

Midterm Exam - 25% week of October 9

Final Exam - 40%

Total 100%

*A grade of C- is required for progression or transfer.*

**Grading System**

Descriptor	Alpha Grade	4.0 Scale	Percent	Rubric for Letter Grades
Excellent	A+	4.0	> 92.9	Work shows in-depth and critical analysis, well developed ideas, creativity, excellent writing, clarity and proper format.
	A	4.0	85 – 92.9	
	A-	3.7	80 – 84.9	
Good	B+	3.3	77 – 79.9	Work is generally of high quality, well developed, well written, has clarity, and uses proper format.
	B	3.0	74 – 76.9	
	B-	2.7	70 – 73.9	
Satisfactory <b>Progression</b>	C+	2.3	67 – 69.9	Work has some developed ideas but needs more attention to clarity, style and formatting.
	C	2.0	64 – 66.9	
	C-	1.7	60 – 63.9	
Poor <b>Minimum Pass</b>	D+	1.3	55 – 59.9	Work is completed in a general way with minimal support, or is poorly written or did not use proper format.
	D	1.0	50 – 54.9	
Failure	F	0.0	< 50	Responses fail to demonstrate appropriate understanding or are fundamentally incomplete.

**Proposed Schedule of Topics**

<b><i>Week of:</i></b>	<b><i>Lecture and Laboratory Topics</i></b>
August 28	Sampling methods – no lab
September 4	Life in water – Field Lab 1 (Sampling a floodplain plant community)
September 11	Temperature relations – Field Lab 2 (Competition and niche partitioning within a spruce forest and sedge fen)
September 18	Water relations – Field Lab 3 (Nutrient-limited black spruce bog)
September 25	Energy and nutrient relations – Field Lab 4 (Species diversity and richness in invertebrate microcommunities)
October 2	Behavioral ecology – Lab 5, (Species diversity and richness in invertebrate microcommunities continued)
October 9	Population ecology – Field Lab (Lab 6, Soil ecology of a Regosol)
October 16	Species interactions – Field Lab (Lab 7, Species richness and diversity within a black spruce bog using point frame method)
October 23	Community ecology – Lab 8 (Demography: age distribution and survivorship)
October 30	Ecosystems Lab 9 (Population growth models)
November 6	Herbivory and predation – Lab 10 (Genetics and Conservation Biology)
November 13	Nutrient and elemental recycling, No Lab – Holiday
November 20	Production and energy flow – No Lab
November 27	Biodiversity and conservation – Term project oral presentations and written report due – No Lab
December 4, 11	Final Exam

**Please Note:**

Date and time allotted to each topic is subject to change.

**Performance Requirements and Student Services****Student Responsibilities**

As a student, it is your responsibility to contact the Office of the Registrar to complete the required forms, including the [Withdrawal/Drop Form](#). All forms are available on the [College website](#). Please refer to the important dates listed in the Academic Schedule in the [Keyano College credit calendar](#) and/or on the [College website](#). It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the [Student and Academic Policies](#).

**Student Attendance**

Class attendance is helpful for two reasons: First, class attendance maximizes a student's learning experience. Second, attending class is an excellent way to keep informed of matters relating to the course administration (e.g., the timing of assignments and exams). Ultimately, you are responsible for your learning and performance in this course. It is the responsibility of each student to be prepared for all classes. Absent students are responsible for the material covered in those classes, and students must ensure they are ready for their next class, including completing any missed assignments and notes.

**Course Evaluation**

Midterm exams and term work is to be completed at the time/date indicated in your course syllabus. It is the expectation of the College that students make every reasonable effort to complete all course evaluation, including, quizzes, midterms, and exams, as scheduled. In the event of an emergency, rescheduling of exams and/or extensions are only provided at the discretion of the course instructor. Students should contact the instructor as soon as they are able, to notify them of missing an evaluative

component. Instructors will use discretion in deciding whether circumstances justify granting a reschedule and/or extension.

Regular term quizzes, midterms, and exams are not eligible for deferral and/or date extension accommodations. Students with accommodations, please refer to Accessibility Services.

Final Exams are subject to deferral processes, please refer to the current [Keyano College Credit Calendar](#).

### **Academic Integrity & Misconduct**

Academic integrity requires commitment to the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. It is expected that students at Keyano College will adhere to these ethical values in all activities related to learning, teaching, research, and service. Any action that contravenes this standard, including misrepresentation, falsification, or deception, undermines the intention and worth of scholarly work and violates the fundamental academic rights of members of our community.

Academic dishonesty takes many forms:

- Plagiarism or the submission of another person's work as their own,
- The use of unauthorized aids in assignments or examinations (cheating),
- Using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to complete coursework (without instructor approval),
- Collusion or the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing work,
- The deliberate misrepresentation of qualifications,
- The willful distortion of results or data,
- Substitution in an examination by another person,
- Submitting unchanged work for another assignment, and
- Breach of confidentiality.

In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged and work that is presented as original must be, in fact, original. Using an AI-content generator (such as ChatGPT) to complete coursework without proper attribution or authorization is a form of academic dishonesty. If you are unsure about whether something may be plagiarism or academic dishonesty, please contact your instructor to discuss the issue.

The consequences for academic misconduct range from a verbal reprimand to expulsion from the College. More specific descriptions and details are found in the *Student & Academic Policies* section of the [Keyano College credit calendar](#). It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights, Academic Integrity, and Non-Academic Misconduct Policies.

To ensure your understanding of plagiarism, you may be required to complete the online [Understanding Plagiarism tutorial](#) and submit the certificate of completion.

### **Online Learning**

Technology and internet connectivity will impact your online learning experience. You may be required to watch online videos, take online quizzes, or participate in live online classes. Live/virtual courses will be hosted in Microsoft Teams or Zoom. For all course delivery types, you will access your course resources on Keyano's learning management system: Moodle (iLearn). Login in using your [Keyano username and password](#). Keyano College operates in a Windows-based environment and having access to the correct tools for online learning is essential.

**Internet Speed**

Minimum download and upload speeds of 10 Mbps. Recommended download speeds of 25 Mbps and upload speeds of 10 Mbps (if you are sharing your internet at home). You can check your internet speed with [Speedtest by Ookla](#).

**Computer System Requirements**

Keyano College software are Windows based.

**Minimum Requirements and Recommended Upgrades for Windows (preferred system) and Apple devices**

These minimum standards are required for a Windows computer/laptop (OS 10 or 11) and a Macintosh (OS 10.14 or above).

1. Windows 10 Operating System or above
2. 4GB of RAM. Recommended upgrade to 8GB of RAM.
3. 10GB+ available hard drive storage space. Note installing Microsoft Office 365 requires 3GB of available hard drive space.
  - a. Install the Microsoft Office 365 suite (~3GB) \*
4. Microphone, webcam, and speakers (All modern laptops have these three accessories built-in. However, a headset or earbuds with a microphone is also recommended).
5. Windows has built-in anti-virus/malware software. It is essential to install system updates to keep your device secured regularly.

\*[Microsoft Office 365](#) is free to Keyano students.

Tablets, iPads, and Chromebooks are **not** recommended: they may not be compatible with the testing lockdown browsers and Microsoft Office 365.

**Specific Department Requirements**

Business and OA programs require Windows 10 or higher.  
Other programs may utilize Windows-based tools as well.

**Computer Software**

Students have access to Microsoft Office 365 and Read & Write for free using Keyano credentials.

See [Recommended Technology](#) for more information.

**Recording of Lectures and Intellectual Property**

Students may only record a lecture if explicit permission is provided by the instructor or Accessibility Services. Even if students have permission to record a lecture or lecture materials, students may not share, distribute, or publish any of the lectures or course materials; this includes any recordings, slides, instructor notes, etc., on any platform. Thus, no student is allowed to share, distribute, publish, or sell course-related content without permission. It is important to recognize that the Canadian Copyright Act contains provisions for intellectual property. The [Academic Integrity Policy](#) provides additional information on Keyano College's expectations from students as members of the intellectual community.

**ITS Helpdesk**

If you have issues with your student account, you can contact the ITS Helpdesk by emailing [its.helpdesk@keyano.ca](mailto:its.helpdesk@keyano.ca) or calling 780-791-4965.

## Specialized Supports

Keyano College is committed to Keyano students and their academic success. There is a variety of student support available at Keyano. All student services are available during Keyano business hours: Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The College is closed on statutory holidays. If you require support outside of regular business hours, please inform the support service team, and they will do their best to accommodate your needs.

**Accessibility Services** provides accommodations for students living with disabilities. Students with documented disabilities or who suspect a disability can meet with an Access Strategist to discuss their current learning barriers and possible accommodations. Students who have accessed accommodations in the past are encouraged to contact the department to request accommodations for the following semester. Please note that requesting accommodations is a process and requires time to arrange. Contact the department as soon as you know you may require accommodations. For accessibility supports and disability-based funding, please book an appointment by emailing us at: [accessibility.services@keyano.ca](mailto:accessibility.services@keyano.ca).

Accessibility Services also provides individual and group learning strategy instruction for all students and technology training and support to enhance learning. You can meet with an Access Strategist to learn studying and test-taking strategies. In addition, you can schedule an appointment with the Assistive Technology Specialist to explore technology tools for learning. Book an appointment today by emailing: [accessibility.services@keyano.ca](mailto:accessibility.services@keyano.ca)

**Wellness Services** offers a caring, inclusive, and respectful environment where students can access free group and individual support to meet academic and life challenges. Mental Health Coordinators provide a safe and confidential environment for you to seek help with personal concerns. Our Wellness Navigator offers support with basic needs such as housing, financial and nutritional support, and outside referrals when needed. Wellness Services welcomes students to participate in group sessions that address topics including mindfulness and test anxiety throughout the academic year. Individual appointments can be made by emailing [wellness.services@keyano.ca](mailto:wellness.services@keyano.ca).

**Library Services** provides students with research, information, and educational technology supports as they engage in their studies. Library staff are available to help you online and in person throughout the semester. Librarians offer individual and small group consultations booked using the online [Book A Librarian calendar](#). The library also provides virtual research and subject guides to help you with your studies. Find the guide that supports your course-related research by viewing the complete list of online [Subject Guides](#). To start your research and access citation guides (APA, MLA, Chicago, or IEEE), visit the [Research Help page](#). The library's collections (including print and online materials) are searchable using [OneSearch](#). The library offers a Loanable Technology collection to support students accessing and using technology. For an up-to-date list of technology available for borrowing, visit the library's [Loanable Technology webpage](#). For a detailed list of library resources and services, go to [www.keyano.ca/library](http://www.keyano.ca/library). For all inquiries, please email [askthelibrary@keyano.ca](mailto:askthelibrary@keyano.ca) or [chat with us online](#).

The **Academic Success Centre** at Keyano College (CC-119) provides free academic support services to registered students, such as tutoring, writing support, facilitated study groups, workshops, and study space. Academic Content Specialists are available in Mathematics, Science, Trades, Power Engineering, Upgrading/College Prep, Human Services, English, Humanities, and more. Students are encouraged to visit the Academic Success Centre to discuss study strategies and academic concerns.

Specialists in the Academic Success Centre also work with students to develop academic success plans, time management skills, study strategies, and homework plans. For additional information, please email [Academic.Success@keyano.ca](mailto:Academic.Success@keyano.ca).

**Laboratory Safety**

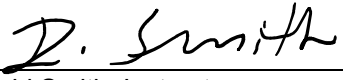
Students must complete the *WHMIS for Students* online training course on Moodle before entering the science laboratories.

Students must comply with the mandatory laboratory safety rules for this course as provided in the laboratory manual. Failure to do so will result in progressive discipline such as a verbal warning, refused entry into the laboratory, or suspension from the College.

Before entering the lab, students are responsible reviewing the lab manual and relevant Safety Data Sheets for the purpose of evaluating risks associated to health. Some hazards used in the laboratory may have additional risks to those with pre-existing medical conditions.

**Authorization**

This course outline has been reviewed and approved by the Program Chair.



Dr. David Smith, Instructor

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Dr. Marie-France Jones, Chair

Date Authorized

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Dr. Coert Erasmus, Dean

Date Authorized

**Signed copies to be delivered to:**

Instructor

Registrar's Office