

Course Summary

This course reviews general ecology and introduces the ecology of Taiwan, its environments, habitats, and life forms.

Tentative schedule:

Week	Lecture Topic	Textbook Readings
3/6	Introduction to Taiwan	
3/13	Questions Ecologists are always asking	Chapter 1
3/20	Scientific Method	Chapter 2
3/27	Birds and bird watching	
4/3	Holiday	
4/10	Global and Taiwan climate	Chapter 8
4/17	Conditions for life: energy	Chapter 3
4/24	Conditions for life: nutrients	Chapter 3
5/1	Midterm Exam	
5/8	Trophic levels and food webs	Chapter 3
5/15	Life history	Chapter 7
5/22	Species	Chapter 4
5/29	Evolution	Chapter 4
6/5	extinction	Chapter 5
6/12	Taiwan ecosystems and climate change	Chapters 9 & 10
6/19	Final presentations	
6/26	Holiday	
7/3	Final Exam	

Course Policy

- 1) In advance (a minimum of 3 days before the due date; earlier is always better!), tell me of problems meeting deadlines and assignments.
- 2) Assignments lose 20% for each week late. <http://www.shokulan.org/Courses/Eco/Eco.html>
- 2) Do your own work. Do not copy! Do not use computer translations.
Copying is penalized by failure of the assignment (maximum possible grade is 48%).
- 3) You must cite your sources.
- 4) Presentations (PPT) may use images from the internet, but you must provide exact links with the image or supply a citation and page number (for images from books). Each fact, quote, or idea must have a citation with it on the slide. Complete reference for each citation must be in the notes section of each slide (see policy 4).
- 5) **Images may not be included in any written report unless you have written permission from the copyright holder.** This includes almost any image from any website (although see creative commons licensing and publications by USA governmental employees).
- 8) **Academic fraud (including faking data and not admitting errors) is penalized by failure of the group project (maximum possible grade=48%).**

Daily Quiz

A quiz is given at the beginning of each class. Quiz also records attendance. Tardy or absent students cannot take the quiz.

Observation Project

You and your group will identify a study site inside the university. After getting my approval for this study site, you will visit your study site throughout the semester. You should make a minimum of two visits each week. One visit should always be on the same day at the same time. The second visit should be at random times on random days. For each visit, you will keep a log of observations. Logs will include photographs, species lists, and notes on phenology, weather conditions, animal activity, and human activity. Logs are due 3 times during the semester. You will also collect data on the trees, birds, and traffic inside your study site. At the end of the semester, you and your group present your findings to the class in a 5-minute talk.

Required Text

Bridgman, C. L. 2012. Introducing Taiwan's Ecology.
<http://shokulan.org/Courses/Eco/Bridgman2012IntroducingTaiwanEcology.pdf>

Grading

Grades are based on 1) Group projects (40%), 2) Attendance and quizzes (20%), 3) Midterm exam (10%), and 4) Final exam (30%).