

BIEB 121 Syllabus Winter 2024

Welcome to BIEB 121!

Instructor:

Shannon Butler, she/her

shannon.rhey.butler@gmail.com

Office hours: We can chat during class time!

Schedule: BIEB 121 Schedule WI24

All of our meetings will occur during class time. Due to some pre recorded lecture taking up class time, we will start later or end earlier. See the Schedule for exact times

Classroom: York 4124. Sometimes we will meet in the field, within walking distance from campus or accessible with public transit.

Modality: This class will meet SYNCHRONOUSLY on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Most of the time we will be **in person**, but on some days we may meet on Zoom.

I may need to change the modality on some days, so be prepared to come to campus in person on all class days. I will give you at least 24 hours notice if switching from remote to in person, and tell you asap if switching from in person to remote.

Zoom Classroom:

<https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/91914634962?pwd=cDVzVDJaeGdZdW1Zb1BtR3FmRWZ5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 919 1463 4962

Password: cat

Instructional assistants:

Name	Email	Pronouns	Office hour
mandy	m1frazer@ucsd.edu	she/her	5-6pm Thurs
Jackie	jekinch@ucsd.edu	she/they	5-6pm Tu

Office hours zoom links: Use the tab that says “Office Hours”

Course overview: This is a course in experimental methods in field ecology. The focus will be on natural history, experimental methods, statistical analysis, reading scientific literature, and

scientific communication. Statistics is an essential prerequisite for this course. The emphasis will be on terrestrial ecology, particularly and animal ecology, but with some community ecology.

Class meetings: We will meet Synchronously twice per **week**. We will not meet during finals week.

Attendance/Absences: We understand things happen. If you have a medical emergency, mental health emergency, unexpected caretaking, or a hard to schedule government appointment (jury duty, court date, etc), please email **Dr. B** as soon as possible (subject line BIEB 121) to figure out a solution. Please do your best to attend class on time, and be honest with us about your absences. I will ask for documentation of your emergency, when reasonable. There will be things that are unforeseeable and out of your control, those are valid reasons to not come to class. But otherwise, you need to be here.

If you have an OSD accommodation that allows you to miss extra class, let me know as soon as possible so we can make sure to work with you individually on that.

Please note that it takes me 24-48 hours M-F to respond to email. If you are expediting an emergency, I might not be able to get back to you in time for you to decide to come to class. Use your best judgment, take care of your health and well being, and use this as a guideline to weigh your decision.

Absences:

Attendance is required. But do not come to class if you are sick. You need to email us before class time if you are sick, unless you are in the hospital or at urgent care, then you can email us ASAP after, obviously. We may ask for documentation when relevant.

Excused absence:	Make up the assignment on your own for full credit by the next lab period (or other reasonably established deadline), go to office hours for help	Reasons: Death of a close family member, contracted illness (not exposure), hard to schedule government appointment, disability flare with ADA letter
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*If you are ill, but well enough to be on Zoom, I suggest you hop on Zoom with your group when relevant. You CANNOT just go on Zoom if you don't want to come to campus, only for illness. If you are a parent and have sudden unexpected changes to child care one day on short notice, Zoom is also acceptable on occasion. Tell us and your group asap in these situation

		Assignments done in class	Effect on Participation			
Unexcused absence:	1st	make up assignments for half credit before the next lab period. Email to me and IAs	none			
	2nd	make up assignments for half credit before the next lab period. Email to me and IAs	-5 points participation			

	3rd and beyond	0 on all assignments for that day	-10 points			
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If you miss a day where you use work from a previous class period, or do not complete it by the next class period, you may need to work on your own for the rest of the module.

Tardiness: If you are tardy enough for it to prevent you from doing group work, or repeatedly tardy, you may have 2-3 points deducted per day, or be asked to work alone that day. Be on time, plan for parking to be tough.

Late Work:

In general, I don't accept late work unless you have an emergency or work out an extension, ahead of time due to a reasonable excuse. I will not accept lab reports late without you discussing an extension with either me or an IA, in which case we would extend the due date based on the circumstance. **If you are working diligently all class period, and need an extension, let us know and we will work something out!**

Asynchronous quizzes: They are all posted on Canvas with due dates. There is ample time to do them. Don't wait until the last minute. But, you get one miss before it affects your grade. I will only extend these if you have an illness, injury, or circumstance that is serious enough to put you out for more than one week. Otherwise, **you get ~15-20 points of flexibility.** This drop will not show in canvas but I will reduce the denominator by 15 points when I calculate the final grade.

Final Lab reports/large assignments: If you do not have a reasonable excuse for an extension, your assignment will be deducted 5%/hour late, meaning you will get a 0 if it is more than 20 hours late, unless you asked for an extension and we agreed you were working diligently.

Checkpoints: Due to quick turnaround, you won't get points for this but will need to complete it before moving on.

Communication: We will share all material via Canvas. I will send out announcements via Canvas "Announcements", monitor them daily, M-F. It is your responsibility to check announcements on Canvas for important information. To contact me, email me with the subject line "BIEB 121". s3butler@ucsd.edu

Dr. B Office hours: I am happy to meet with you in the hall if you need to talk about a private matter. There is plenty of time to get help with class material in our lab periods. If you need additional help, please let me know and I can make time! Unfortunately, I cannot write letters of recommendations for students at this time, unless you have been an IA for one of my courses in a previous quarter, then please reach out!

Nature of this course: This course is a **field based course**. You need to be able to go out into the field with us. **If you have a disability, injury, or medical condition, please talk to me about it as soon as possible so that we can accommodate you.**

Technology: You need to be able to access Canvas and the internet to complete this course. You will also need to use statistical software (R, will get you access later!). There are apps for Zoom, Canvas, and Google Drive which will be useful if you want to multitask with your phone/tablet. You will need to connect to the VPN to access primary literature:

<https://library.ucsd.edu/computing-and-technology/connect-from-off-campus/>

Please do this during week 1 in case you run into issues. Use the option for **VPN Anyconnect**.

When we are in class on Zoom, you need to be in a place where you can use your microphone to talk and share your screen. This is your responsibility. You cannot do class on your phone while in a car, that will not work.

Software: We will be using R, Microsoft Excel, and a Word processing software (such as Microsoft Word or the equivalent). If you use Mac “Numbers”, that will work but my instructions will not be worded specifically for your program. It is your responsibility to have access to this free software, whether you are at home or on a school computer.

Download R here: <https://rstudio.com/products/rstudio/download/> it is free and there are instructions on Canvas Module. We also have R on the computers in Lab, but it is in your best interest to also have it on your laptop.

How you are graded/evaluated: Each day, there will be some sort of deliverable, either by the end of class, or by the next class period. You will have an individual project (Natural History Project) as well. But write ups are usually done in groups. We also have some pre-recorded lectures and quizzes (open notes) to make sure that you have watched and understood the lecture.

These points are tentative! Some may change due to circumstances I cannot predict.

Schedule: You can view the schedule here:

📌 BIEB 121 Schedule WI24

This Schedule is tentative and any changes will be announced in advance and points adjusted. Details on all assignments will be given in class/Canvas! Stay tuned!

Grading: I do total points and calculate your grade as a percentage. You can receive up to 400 points in this class (subject to slight adjustments based on exact number of assignments). The number of points that you receive will be divided by the maximum number of points possible to calculate your grade as a percentage. If we do not get to all of the activities, the denominator will be adjusted. *Look at canvas assignments page for exact grade breakdown* Or the “Grading Scheme” here [📌 BIEB 121 Schedule WI24](#)

Assignment type	Point opportunities	Points towards grade	~%	
Lecture checks	70	55	14%	
Lab write ups & large projects	170	170	43%	
Small lab checkpoints	120	120	30%	
Field days	35	30	8%	
Participation	start with all, subtract	25	6%	can go negative
		400		

In general, I use this to determine final grades. I do not round but use cut offs in Excel:

A	92 - 100 %	C+	78 - 79 %
A-	90 - 91 %	C	72 - 78 %
B+	88 - 89 %	C-	70 - 71 %
B	82 - 87 %	D	60 - 69 %
B-	80- 81 %	F	0 - 59 %

Lab specific rules: You need to wear long pants, closed toe shoes. This is for safety and nothing to do with modesty. You may keep water/food outside the door. Do not bring food or drink into the lab. Please feel free to go into the hall to have a snack or get a drink. Please don't leave York to go buy food, please bring things with you to consume briefly in the hall.

Restrooms: There is a “Men’s” restroom outside the lab. The “Women’s” restroom is on the floor below on the other side of the building. Individual/Gender inclusive bathrooms are in Urey hall. Please take the time to go use whichever bathroom makes you the most comfortable.

Accommodations For Students With Disabilities: Students requesting accommodations for this course due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) which is located in University Center 202 behind Center Hall. Students are required to present their AFA letters to Faculty (please make arrangements to contact me privately) and to the OSD Liaison in the department in advance so that accommodations may be arranged. Contact the OSD for further information: 858.534.4382 (phone) osd@ucsd.edu (email) <http://disabilities.ucsd.edu> (website) Do this within the first week of class. You can choose to use your accommodation or not, but you need to decide this up front so that I can accommodate your needs.

Academic integrity: Students are expected to do their own work. Cheating will not be tolerated and all suspected cases will be handed over to the Academic Integrity Coordinator. Any student caught cheating will fail the course. Even the most minor infringements on Academic integrity will result in at least a full letter grade reduction. Submitting any material written by someone else (copied from a lab member, or from any on-line source) is a violation of academic integrity. For information on academic integrity at UCSD:

<https://students.ucsd.edu/academics/academic-integrity/index.html>

Student Questions/Enrollment: Please direct student questions to Biological Sciences Student and Instructional Services. UCSD continuing students use the Virtual Advising Center vac.ucsd.edu Summer Session (non UCSD students) may email biousis@ucsd.edu

Resources for student support

Many students face academic and non-academic barriers that interfere with their education. The University of California has a lot of resources for students experiencing academic and non-academic problems. It is your responsibility to utilize the resources provided to you, but if you have trouble accessing these resources, please reach out to me.

Technology: If you don't have a way to access the internet or interact with Canvas, Fill out this form: <https://eforms.ucsd.edu/view.php?id=490887>; email biousis@ucsd.edu

Teaching + Learning Commons The Teaching + Learning Commons offers tutoring, consultations, and workshops on learning strategies as well as assistance with writing in the Writing + Critical Expression Hub <http://commons.ucsd.edu>

SPACES: Book lending service for students <https://booklending.ucsd.edu/>

Community Centers: The Campus Community Centers at UC San Diego build community among our diverse population of students, faculty and staff members. Each provides a forum to

increase awareness of social issues, encourage dialogue, build community, improve retention, increase outreach and yield, and foster academic success. For a list of the many campus community centers, as well as other resources to support students, go to:

<https://diversity.ucsd.edu/>

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) provides free, confidential, psychological counseling and crisis services for registered UCSD students. CAPS also provides a variety of groups, workshops, and drop-in forums. For more information, please visit our Counseling Services page. <https://caps.ucsd.edu/>

CARE at the Sexual Assault Resource Center is the UC San Diego confidential advocacy and education office for sexual violence and gender-based violence (dating violence, domestic violence, stalking). CARE provides free and confidential services for students, staff and faculty impacted by sexual assault, relationship violence and stalking.

<https://students.ucsd.edu/sponsor/sarc/>

Undocumented Student Services Center is committed to serving our undocumented students and their families through holistic services. We also advocate for generating a sense of community for all students that are undocumented or come from mixed immigration-status families. <https://students.ucsd.edu/sponsor/undoc/>

Student Veterans Resource Center (SVRC) is committed to ensuring that military affiliated students successfully make the transition from the military environment to campus life, and are assisted in their progress toward completing their academic degree. In collaboration with other University partners, the SVRC seeks to identify and mitigate the barriers to academic success that are specific to the military affiliated student community.

<https://students.ucsd.edu/sponsor/veterans/index.html>

The Hub (<https://basicneeds.ucsd.edu/triton-food-pantry/index.html>) will point you to resources to meet your basic needs (nutritious food, stable housing, etc). Some of these resources are listed below. I do not know if these resources are available during the campus closure, the website has not been updated.

Triton Food Pantry: The University of California believes that all students should have access to nutritious food. <https://basicneeds.ucsd.edu/triton-food-pantry/index.html> I do not know if these resources are available during the campus closure, the website has not been updated.

English language Learners: here are resources to help English Language Learners:

<https://commons.ucsd.edu/educators/ELP-ii/resources.html#English-Language-and-Communication>