

Climate Change and Ectotherms – BIOS 998 Section 3 – Spring 2018

Instructor: Dr. Thomas M. Luhring
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Office hours by appointment

Location: Manter Hall 203

Times: Mondays 12:30-1:20 pm

Course topic: Global climate change is leaving an indelible mark on the planet through shifts in both mean temperatures and increasing temperature variability. Temperature drives biological processes from photosynthesis to metabolism and population growth. For ectotherms – whose body temperature largely reflects that of their surrounding environment – shifts in thermal environments directly affect their body temperature and subsequently their physiological processes. This course is designed to introduce you to the general concepts of the temperature dependence of life as it relates to global climate change and to explore ideas surrounding how organisms will change in response to shifting thermal regimes. After our initial foray into the basic concepts covering the interactions of ectotherms with climate change, students will use the primary literature to lead 2 discussion classes on subjects of interest to them related to questions that develop in class.

Readings and discussion: All students are expected to have read and be able to discuss the assigned papers for each class. Discussion leaders are responsible for assigning (updating the e-mail chain) the readings at the end of the class the week prior to our next meeting.

Grades and Assignments: Your grade in this class will be determined by your presence (1% each for 13 classes), your engaged participation (5% each for 13 classes), and leading discussion on your assigned days (11% each for 2 classes). For participation, *engaged* means making an effort to participate in discussions.

Grading Scale (% of available points):

A+ 97.0 – 100	A 93.0 – 96.99	A- 90.0 – 92.99	
B+ 87.0 – 89.99	B 83.0 – 86.99	B- 80.0 – 82.99	
C+ 77.0 – 79.99	C 73.0 – 76.99	C- 70.0 – 72.99	
D+ 67.0 – 67.99	D 63.0 – 66.99	D- 60.0 – 62.99	F <60%

Attendance and Participation: You are expected to attend class and participate in daily discussions. The first 3 weeks of the semester have assigned readings. Starting on the fourth week of class, students will rotate leading discussions (to be determined by sign-up sheet).

Grading rubric: Keep track of your scores to stay aware of your grade.

Item	Points possible	My points
Presence (1% per day, 13 days)	13	
Engaged participation (5% per day, 13 days)	65	
Lead Discussions (11% per assigned day, 2 days)	22	
Total possible	100	

Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787 voice or TTY.