Biology 109

Natural History of the Southwest

Instructor: Deborah Bird

Mailing Address: Deborah Bird/Adjunct Faculty Office, Pima Community College East Campus

8181 E. Irvington Rd. 85709-4000

Turning in Assignments: Papers and assignments should be turned in during classroom time on the date the assignment is due. The Adjunct Faculty Office on East Campus can also be used to turn in papers. Have the staff stamp your papers with the date to insure meeting deadlines. You will not lose points if assignments are handed in on the day due. You will only receive reading assignment papers in the class. If you miss the class you will have to make arrangements to get this paper. Assignments that involve watching films during class time can not be made up from an absence.

Any late assignments can be turned into the Adjunct faculty office. You will lose 10% of the total points for every day you are late. The staff will stamp your paper with the date. (Go to [http://www.pima.edu/maps/index.shtml?map=3](http://www.pima.edu/maps/index.shtml?map=3) for directions to the Testing Center and the Adjunct faculty Office.

If the Adjunct faculty Office is closed there is a slot in which you can leave papers. Make sure you have my name on the paper.

Phone: Leave a message at 903-9038. Talk slowly and leave your phone number.

E-Mail: deborahbirdus@yahoo.com or dbird@pima.edu

Course Description: Study of the common plants and animals of the southwest. Includes their distribution, adaptation, behavior and ecology. Also includes physical geography and geological principles of the region.

Performance Objectives: Students will:

1. Apply basic geological principles to interpret the physical setting of the Southwest.
2. Apply meteorological and biological principles to describe the formation of the major biotic communities in the Southwest.
3. Describe major desert adaptations and the process of natural selection.
4. Identify common plants and animals of the Southwest.
5. Integrate basic biological principles and specific natural history information into an understanding of the common plants and animals of the Southwest.
6. Demonstrate skills necessary for [life-long learning](http://www.pima.edu/maps/index.shtml?map=3) of natural history, including conducting scientific research.
Website: [http://wc.pima.edu/~bfiero/bio109web/](http://wc.pima.edu/~bfiero/bio109web/) : we will be using this web site, but there are other assignments in the express class that are not on the web site.


### GRADING SYSTEM

**Grade Determination:** Based on percentage of total accumulated points from both lecture and lab. Lecture (Tests) are worth 50% and Lab (Everything else) is worth 50%

**Exams (500):** 5 exams @ 100 pts each = 500 total which is 50% of final grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A = 90 - 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B = 80 - 89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C = 70 - 79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D = 60 - 69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F = 00 - 59%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The exams are being taken in the testing center. The exam will be put in the testing center on Tuesday around noon and will be in the testing center until the following Tuesday at closing. Starting on the 21st there will be two exams in the testing center for a few hours. Make sure you ask for the right exam.

Dates exams go into testing center
Exam 1 (100) on April 14
Exam 2 (100) on April 21
Exam 3 (100) on April 28
Exam 4 (100) on May 5
Exam 5 (100) on May 12

Exam 5 will be given in the classroom and is the last night of class.

Identification tests will be included as part of the lab material. Each ID test will be worth 50 points and will include the following: Plant ID Test, Bird ID, Arthropod/Fish Amphibian ID Test, and Reptile/Mammal ID Test.

The ID exams will be given during class time. If you miss class you have missed the exam.
POLICIES

Attendance Policy: You are expected to attend class when scheduled. All exams except number 5 will be given in the testing center at the east campus.

Make-up Policy: Exams and Identification Tests cannot be made up.

Scholastic Ethic: You are expected to abide by the College’s Student Rights and Responsibilities (http://www.pima.edu/~coadmissions/studresp.htm). Breaches in scholastic ethic (e.g. cheating and plagiarism) will be dealt with severely (including receiving an F in the class).

Official Withdrawal (W): If you decide you cannot continue in class, make sure you officially withdraw by April 29. If you wish to receive a grade of "W" after the withdrawal date, please request a grade of "W" in writing to the instructor; however, granting a grade of "W" after the deadline is up to the discretion of the instructor.

Incomplete (I): Given only when a student has missed 20% or less of the course material for a reason acceptable to the instructor. Eligibility for an incomplete requires earned grades that average "C" or above at the time of request.

Posting of Grades: Grades will be given on a print out with your exams every week after the first exam is due.

Americans with Disabilities Act: Pima County Community College District strives to comply with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Students with disabilities requiring special accommodations must notify the instructor of this need or directly contact the Disabled Student Resources Office on your campus at the beginning of the semester. One or more field trips are tentatively planned during the course. A reasonable accommodation will be provided unless it creates an undue hardship or is not possible. Total participation may be denied for education or safety reasons, and an alternative activity will be provided.

PHILOSOPHY OF CLASS

I want this course to be interesting, applicable, and challenging for you. I hope each of you is successful in this class. Please feel free to contact me if you if I can help you in your progress toward success. But learning is something you do and requires active participation and effort. The outcome I hope to achieve is that each of you will become more aware of and better understand the geological features, plants, and animals that you are liable to encounter here in the desert southwest. I want you to better understand science and learn how to acquire, synthesize, apply, and evaluate natural history information on this unique region for use throughout your life.

PROJECT – 200 lab points

You have chosen one of the national monuments or one of the national parks listed in your reading from week 1. Write a Natural history paper of the park or monument including the historical aspects (Who, What When Where, etc) Describe the biome(s) of the Park or monument,
as well as, the Geology. Pick 5 mammals, 5 Birds, 5 plants, and 5 arthropods. Include pictures of the area as well as pictures of the chosen organisms.