

## GENERAL INFORMATION AND COURSE POLICIES

**Instructor:** Jeff Garnas, Department of Natural Resources and the Environment

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### Expected Learning Outcomes

Students completing NR 965 should show mastery of the major principles of community ecology and be able to apply them in the research process. Students will develop skills in analyzing and especially in interpreting ecological models (statistical, mathematical, simulation) and data, in recognizing and evaluating different approaches to ecological science, and in reading, critiquing, and discussing primary ecological literature.

**Class Meetings**      Monday & Wednesday 10:10-12:00 pm in Room G10, [Petee Hall](#)

### Course Organization

Lecture:	Twice weekly. Major topics in community ecology
Readings:	Assigned journal articles and book chapters
Discussion:	Based on assigned reading and other concepts from class.
Practicum:	Guided statistical or modeling exercises based on concepts and methods from lecture and discussion (in class and at home)

### Grade breakdown

Exams (three total)	50%
Discussion points (A list of issues to stimulate discussion of the assigned readings, uploaded to Canvas the night before class)	5%
Participation (in class, during discussions, and as a rotating discussion leader)	25%
Analytical work and associated assignments	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Course Policies

1. FINAL GRADES. Final grades are first calculated as percentages, then converted to letter grades as follows:

A: $\geq 93.0$	A-: 90.0-92.9	B+: 87.0-89.9	B: 83.0-86.9
B-: 80.0-82.9	C+: 77.0-79.9	C: 73.0-76.9	C-: 70.0-72.9
D+: 67.0-69.9	D: 63.0-66.9	D-: 60.0-62.9	F: $< 60.0$

2. ACADEMIC HONESTY. Students must be familiar with the UNH policy on Academic Honesty (<http://unh.edu/vpsas/handbook/academic-honesty>), which states, in part:

*“Honesty is a core value at the University of New Hampshire. The members of its academic community both require and expect one another to conduct themselves with integrity. This means that each member will adhere to the principles and rules of the University and pursue academic work in a straightforward and truthful manner, free from deception or fraud.”*

Unless otherwise directed, written work in NR 965 must be done individually and independently. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. The minimum penalty is zero credit for the assignment. Maximum penalty is failure for the course. A tutorial on plagiarism may be found at: <https://cola.unh.edu/academics/plagiarism-tutorial>

3. LEARNING DISABILITY. “The University is committed to providing students with documented disabilities equal access to all university programs and facilities. If you think you have a disability requiring accommodation, you must register with Student Accessibility Services (<https://www.unh.edu/diversity-inclusion/student-accessibility>).
4. MENTAL HEALTH. Your academic success in NR 965 is very important. If you find emotional or mental health issues are affecting that success, contact Psychological and Counseling Services (603 862-2090/TTY: 7-1-1) which provides counseling and other mental health services.
5. DUE DATES. Please submit all assignments by the date and time indicated via Canvas. Late assignments are accepted but lose 10 points per day.
6. MISSED EXAM. Students missing one of the three exams must take a make-up exam within one week of the originally scheduled exam date.
7. ANTICIPATED PROBLEMS. Students anticipating a particular problem in taking an exam, leading a discussion, or handing in a completed assignment on time should consult the instructor before the scheduled event occurs.

**Course schedule & readings, 2023**

- This represents my best estimate for now...stay tuned for changes!