COURSE SLO ASSESSMENT REPORT, SCC

Department: _Biology_ Course: ___259_____

Year: _2009__ Semester: _Fall__

1) Outcome to be assessed	2) Means of assessment and criteria of success	3) Summary of data collected	4) Analysis of data	5) Plan of action/what to do next
Demonstrate a cohesive understanding of the relationship between ecosystems, populations, and pollutants.	3 short answer questions on the practical exam- to be given in each lab section. 65% correct expected for C question, 20% correct for B question and 10% correct for A question	1. _____ environmental changes, which are common to all plant succession, are brought about by the actions of organisms. A) Autogenic B) Autozygous C) Allogenic D) Allopatric Fall 09 21/31 (68%) 2. The following number of ant species were counted in these biomes. Tundra (5) Taiga (18) Coniferous Forest (41) Tropical Rain Forest (10) The most likely reason(s) for the number of ant species in this list is/are: A) greater sunlight. B) variations in soil type. C) different species of predators. D) air pressure, humidity, and resulting rainfall. E) the amount of photosynthetic production, length of the warm season, and diversity of plants Fall 09 26/30 (87%) 3. An ecosystem contains A) only the biotic components of the environment. B) only the abiotic components of the environment. C) only the energy flow components of an environment. D) both the living organisms and the abiotic components of the environment. E) only the food relationships found in an environment. Fall 09 28/31 (90%)	The data suggests that these three questions are too easy and do not necessarily reflect the criteria stated in the second column	This is the first semester I have looked at these questions in terms of assessing this SLO. I think I will use them again for a semester or 2 then re-evaluate whether or not I need to change the question(s) used in this assessment. I may elect to change the questions if the data are similar the following semester.

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Express a fundamental comprehension of ecological principles by citing examples.	3 short answer questions on the practical exam- to be given in each lab section. 65% correct expected for C question, 20% correct for B question and 10% correct for A question	1. Consider the life of the praying mantis. The large predatory female lays several hundred eggs in a foam mass in the fall. The young are most vulnerable when they emerge in the spring, but the few that survive spread out over the countryside and, if they find a mate, lay eggs the following fall. Which type of survivorship curve does this represent? A) type I B) type II C) type III D) exponential growth followed by a decline from resource depletion E) maximal exponential growth and minimal use of carrying capacity Fall 09 20/31 (65%) 2. Which of the following is the <u>least</u> likely outcome of a host-parasite interaction? A) The host population evolves to become more susceptible to the parasite. B) The parasite population evolves better means of avoiding host defenses. C) The parasitism evolves into mutualism. D) The host population evolves stronger defenses against the parasite. Fall 09 14/31 (45%) 3. In a predator-prey cycle A) a decline in the numbers of predators causes a decline in the number of prey. B) a decline in the numbers of prey causes a decline in the number of predators C) an increase in the number of predators triggers an increase in the number of prey. D) All of the choices are correct, causing an up-and-down cycle for each animal. E) None of the choices are correct since this is a seasonal die-off that would occur without the other species present. Fall 09 25/31 (80%)	The data suggests that these three questions are too easy and do not necessarily reflect the criteria stated in the second column	This is the first semester I have looked at these questions in terms of assessing this SLO. I think I will use them again for a semester or 2 then re-evaluate whether or not I need to change the question(s) used in this assessment. I may elect to change the questions if the data are similar the following semester.