

# Course Approval Form

For instructions:  
<http://registrar.gmu.edu/facultystaff/catalog-revisions/course/>

## Action Requested: (definitions available at website above)

☒ Create NEW ☐ Inactivate  
☐ Modify (check all that apply below)

☐ Title  
☐ Credits

☐ Repeat Status  
☐ Schedule Type

☐ Prereq/coreq  
☐ Restrictions

☐ Grade Mode  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Course Level:

☒ Undergraduate ☐ Graduate

College/School: Science  
Submitted by: Deborah Polayes

Department: Biology  
Ext: 3-4543 Email: dpolayes@gmu.edu

Subject Code: BIOL Number: 378  
(Do not list multiple codes or numbers. Each course proposal must have a separate form.)

Effective Term: ☒ Fall ☐ Spring ☐ Summer  
Year 2017

Title: Current \_\_\_\_\_  
Banner (30 characters max w/ spaces) \_\_\_\_\_  
New Applied Ecology Laboratory

## Fulfills Mason Core Req? (undergrad only)

☐ Currently fulfills requirement  
☐ Submission in progress

Credits: ☒ Fixed → 1  
(check one) ☐ Variable → \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Lec + Lab/Rct → 0 or \_\_\_\_\_

Repeat Status: ☒ Not Repeatable (NR)  
(check one) ☐ Repeatable within degree (RD) →  
☐ Repeatable within term (RT) →

Max credits allowed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(required for RT/RD status only)

Grade ☒ Regular (A, B, C, etc.)  
Mode: ☐ Satisfactory/No Credit  
(check one) ☐ Special (A, B, C, etc. +IP)

Schedule Type: \_\_\_\_\_  
(check one)  
LEC can include LAB or RCT if linked sections will be offered

☐ Lecture (LEC)  
☒ Lab (LAB)  
☐ Recitation (RCT)  
☐ Internship (INT)

☐ Independent Study (IND)  
☐ Seminar (SEM)  
☐ Studio (STU)  
☐ Activity (ACT)

☐ Research (RSC)  
☐ Student Teaching (STC)  
☐ Thesis (THS-798/799)  
☐ Dissertation (DIS-998/999)

## Prerequisite(s) (NOTE: hard-coding requires separate Prereq Checking form; see above website):

BIOL377

## Corequisite(s):

## Restrictions Enforced by System: Major, College, Degree, Program, etc. Include Code(s).

\_\_\_\_\_

## Equivalencies (check only as applicable):

☐ YES, course is 100% equivalent to \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ YES, course renumbered to or replaces \_\_\_\_\_

## Catalog Copy (Consult University Catalog for models)

Description (No more than 60 words, use verb phrases and present tense)	Notes (List additional information for the course)
Application of ecosystem concepts in natural and managed ecosystems.	
Indicate number of contact hours: _____	Hours of Lecture or Seminar per week: _____
When Offered: (check all that apply) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fall <input type="checkbox"/> Summer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spring	Hours of Lab or Studio: <u>2h 45 m</u>

<p><b>Ap</b> _____</p> <p>Dep: _____ College/School Approval _____ Date _____</p> <p>If this _____ any other units, the originating department must circulate this proposal for review by those units _____ ion. Failure to do so will delay action on this proposal.</p>			
Unit Name	Unit Name	Unit Approver's Signature	Date
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

## Undergraduate or Graduate Council Approval

UGC or GC Council Member \_\_\_\_\_

Provost's Office \_\_\_\_\_

UGC or GC Approval Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Course Proposal Submitted to the College of Science Curriculum Committee (COSCC)

The form above is processed by the Office of the University Registrar. This second page is for the COSCC's reference.  
Please complete the applicable portions of this page to clearly communicate what the form above is requesting.

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### FOR ALL COURSES (required)

Course Number and Title: BIOL378 **Applied Ecology Laboratory**

Date of Departmental Approval:

### FOR INACTIVATED/REINSTATED COURSES (required if inactivating/reinstating a course)

- Reason for Inactivating/Reinstating:

### FOR MODIFIED COURSES (required if modifying a course)

- Summary of the Modification:  
Removing all prerequisites
- Text before Modification (title, repeat status, catalog description, etc.):
- Text after Modification (title, repeat status, catalog description, etc.):
- Reason for the Modification:

### FOR NEW COURSES (required if creating a new course)

- Reason for the New Course:  
It compliments BIOL377 and increases our offerings for laboratory classes
  - Relationship to Existing Programs:  
Is another laboratory course for the ESCB concentration.
  - Relationship to Existing Course  
Is a laboratory for BIOL377
  - Semester of Initial Offering:  
FALL 2017
  - Proposed Instructors:  
**Dr. Lorelei Crerar**
  - Insert Tentative Syllabus Below
-

**BIOL 378 Lab Schedule**

Date	Lab Number	Topics	Homework Due	Points
<b>August</b> 31	1	How to write Lab Report Scientific Writing in the Sciences	None	
<b>September</b> 7	2	Predicting the Impact of Global Warming (Investigating Ecology Book)	Trial Report	10
14	3	Using Species Diversity to Assess Stream Quality (Investigating Ecology Book)	Lab 2 Report	20
21	4	Sewage Treatment Field Trip	Lab 3 Report Treatment Quiz	20 10
28	5	Investigating Land Use through Soil Surveys and Modeling (Investigating Ecology Book)	None	
<b>October</b> 5	6	Testing for Environmental Pollutants with Allium (Investigating Ecology Book)	Lab 5 Report	20
12	7	Examination of skeletal material using herbivores	Lab 6 Report	20
19	8	Evolution: The Beginning (Northstar Games)	Lab 7 Report Evolution Quiz	20 10
26	9	Create-A-Reserve	Game Quiz	10
<b>November</b> 2	10	HWC-Mock Forum	Report to the Forum	10
9	11	The Dangerous Invasive – Zebra Mussels	None	
16	12	How Humans Can Help the Environment – Ecotourism Presenting at Scientific Conferences	Invasive Species Report	20
<b>23</b>	<b>Holiday</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>		
30	13	Poster Presentation Work Day		
<b>December</b> 7	14	Presentations	Poster Presentation	50 50

**Notes:**

**A.** Unless the instructor announces otherwise, if a scheduled lab is canceled by snow or for any other reason, a plan will be made during the next scheduled class period. This means you should be prepared to do outside work if it was in the scheduled lab that was cancelled.

**B. Blackboard.** Powerpoints and other material will be available on Blackboard.

**C.** Last Day to Add and Drop (with no penalty: May 20, 2015

Last Day to Drop: May 22, 2015

Selective Withdrawal Period: May 23 – May 29, 2015

**D.** If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see your instructor and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. **All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.**

**E.** Important Web Page:

**GMU Writing Center** <http://infoguides.gmu.edu/scientificwriting>

**UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES** “Ask a Librarian” <http://library.gmu.edu/mudge/IM/IMRef.html>

**Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS):** (703) 993-2380; <http://caps.gmu.edu>

## Ecology 378 Lab Policies

The Ecology 378 lab provides incredible opportunities to students to enhance the lecture. We will gain an understanding of the natural world through fun field trips to local areas, learn introductory methods for the collection and interpretation of scientific data, and apply ecological theory to conduct experiments to answer questions with relevance to human and environmental health, and conservation. This lab can be intense and requires active participation, attention, and work.

### Academic Integrity

GMU is an Honor Code university; please see the University Catalog for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously and violations are treated gravely. What does academic integrity mean in this course? Essentially this: when you are responsible for a task, you will perform that task. When you rely on someone else's work in an aspect of the performance of that task, you will give full credit to those people in the proper, accepted form. When doing homework, the work must be yours. It is totally unacceptable to copy the work of another student in this course in any form.

### GMU Email Accounts

Students must use their Mason email account to receive important University information, including messages related to this class. See <http://masonlive.gmu.edu> for more information.

### University Policies

The University Catalog, <http://catalog.gmu.edu>, is the central resource for university policies affecting student, faculty, and staff conduct in university academic affairs. Other policies are available at <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/>. All members of the university community are responsible for knowing and following established policies.

### THE WARNING LIST (you want to read this list...)

1. Homework is always turned in at the beginning of each lab either via Blackboard or hard copy (I will specify for each assignment). Do NOT email assignments. To be excused from a lab, you need a valid medical excuse.
2. Late homework will not be accepted **at all**.
3. If you are more than **10 minutes late for lab** - you both lose points for the lab you are late to (because you will be marked absent) and you also cannot turn in your homework from the previous lab (because it is late)!!
4. No extra credit points will be given and the lab is not graded on a curve.
5. You cannot turn in homework for a lab in which you were absent unless you have a doctor's note. Excused absences require a **signed and dated doctor's note with contact information**.
6. Religious holidays also count as excused absences, but only if you give **advance notice within the first two weeks of the semester** if you are going to be missing a class due to a religious holiday.
7. Turn in your excused absence homework before the due date in to your TA's mailbox in the Biology Office room (EXPL 1102) if you cannot make it to a lab. Be sure to get the secretary to put a date & time stamp on your homework document **or it will not be accepted**. Biology Office hours are Monday-Friday 8:30am to 5:00pm.
8. **No cell phones** are allowed in class. If you have an emergency and need to take a call, please step out of the classroom.
9. Work independently on all assignments - **do not copy work from your fellow classmates**. Do not rely on any homework from prior students. Beware. We change data to account for this. Plagiarism and academic dishonesty will be reported the GMU Honor Committee. Policies and punishments can be reviewed at this website: <http://www.gmu.edu/academics/catalog/9798/honorcod.htm>.

### ATTENDANCE

This is simple. Just come to lab – and participate. Attendance is taken from a seating chart. If you come to lab and work hard to gather lab or field data, which we then use for our homework assignments, it would NOT be fair for someone else who did not even show up at all to get the same points as you.

### UNEXCUSED ABSENCE

First and foremost – no need to provide any excuses of any kind. They are yours to keep. We do not want to hear them. If you did not show up – you did not show up.

If you have an **unexcused** absence from a lab – you are **not allowed** to turn in the homework from that particular lab (if there is any). This is because we gather data in the field for our homework – it is hard work and participating students are rewarded. Missing a lab is an easy way to lose a quick 15-20 points. If you had perfect marks of 100% losing 20 points brings you down to 90%, so a missed homework is a good way to lower your grade.

### EXCUSED ABSENCE

An **excused** absence is one that we can verify and is reasonable. One example would be that you were sick and have a doctor's note with contact information. If you have an excused absence – you still have to do the homework – and you must turn that in **on time** (no extra time is awarded – you get to do the homework while you are sick), but you will be without the benefit of having experienced lab TA to teach you how to do the calculations. So, missing a lab with a valid excuse is still tough on you – you will probably have to figure out how to do the homework on your own. Keep in mind that a general note from a GMU health center is **NOT** going to work. It must say that you “*could not attend lab*” – as specifically **mandated** by a doctor.

### HOMEWORK POLICY

Here are some helpful things to know:

1. Homework is to be submitted before lab begins. Once the lab has begun if you are running later than 10 minutes – homework is late and will not be accepted. No homework will be accepted if finished in class after the start of class.
2. The top of your homework should have **1. Your Name, 2. Your Lab Section and TA's name, 3. The title of the homework assignment** (Ex. Stats 2 Homework). **It should also be stapled if it is multiple pages.** Take pride in your work and be professional. *If all these items are not present you will lose points or your TA may not accept it.*
3. All assignments should be typed. No handwriting at all. Print it out, take pride in your work, and represent yourself professionally.
4. Homework is **not** to be e-mailed at all. *Homework will never ever be accepted by email – no hard copy, on time = a zero!!*

### CONTACTING YOUR INSTRUCTOR

First and foremost – use e-mail. We can only communicate by e-mail via your valid GMU e-mail address (this is a GMU Policy). Biology TAs use Exploratory Hall (Room 1102) for office hours. If we are not in the TA office during office hours we are likely on a different part of campus and will be returning shortly. Therefore, it is always best to send an email ahead of time, just in case.

### HELPFUL TOOLS / FIELD TRIPS:

1. Get a small field notebook to take on field trips. This is better than lugging about your lab manual. Or – get a small backpack to tote your things around.
2. Bring your computer to lab each and every time! Always keeps copies of original homework. Keep in mind you are required to have a laptop for school. We do not have computers in our lab.
3. For field trips, we either meet at the lab first and then walk to the vans **OR** meet behind Exploratory Hall near the loading dock. **Your instructor will tell you what the plan is, so pay attention.** Whichever it is, just remember that we cannot wait for anyone. If you are running across campus, you might miss the vans. Be on time. Driving takes time, so we try to get out of Mason quickly.
4. You are **NOT** allowed to meet us at the field site. **GMU policy.** If you're not in the van – you cannot participate in the field trip – no exceptions.
5. Find a decent pair of athletic shoes or hiking boots for field trips. Anything you don't mind getting really dirty. Sun glasses, bug spray, water bottle, and a cheap plastic emergency poncho can also come in handy. Come prepared to do fieldwork – not just observe others doing it.
6. Keep in mind that ticks have been very prevalent recently. It is vitally important that you do a tick check after each lab. When you get in the vans, just check yourself over. However, when you return home, please check yourself carefully ticks are dangerous and can carry several diseases. If you do find one, please follow the directions you were given in lab for removal of the insect.