

TENTATIVE SYLLABUS
CARIBBEAN BIODIVERSITY BSC4363
FALL 2018 MODESTO MAIDIQUE CAMPUS

Lectures: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 11:00- 11:50 AM. Chem & Physics 145

Instructor:

- Dr. Javier Francisco-Ortega (ortegaj@fiu.edu - Room: OE-242 or OE-268- Phone: x2080); email is best but **must** use 'BSC4363' in subject line.
- Office hours at FIU: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 1:00- 2:30 PM

Date	Lecture
Sunday August 19	Last Day to Register without a \$100 Late Fee: 8/19/18
1.1.- Monday August 20	Introduction, Syllabus & Clickers, Class attendance mandatory, Class attendance will be recorded
1.2.- Wednesday August 22	Research on Islands: Classic and Recent Approaches 1 (Exam 1) iClicker devise tests
1.3.- Friday August 24	Research on Islands: Classic and Recent Approaches 2 (Exam 1)
2.1.- Monday August 27	Research on Islands: Classic and Recent Approaches 3 (Exam 1)
Monday August 27	Last day for Add/Drop
2.2.- Wednesday August 29	Research on Islands: Classic and Recent Approaches 4 (Exam 1)
2.3.- Friday August 31	Research on Islands: Classic and Recent Approaches 5 (Exam 1)
Friday August 31	Cancellation of Enrollment for unpaid Tuition and Fee
3.1.- Monday September 3	Holiday – Labor Day
3.2.- Wednesday September 5	Island Biogeography: Species Numbers and Community Assembly 1 (Exam 1)
3.3.- Friday September 7	Island Biogeography: Species Numbers and Community Assembly 2 (Exam 1)
4.1.- Monday September 10	Island Biogeography: Species Numbers and Community Assembly 3 (Exam 1) – Dr John Geiger

4.2.- Wednesday September 12	Island Biogeography: Species Numbers and Community Assembly 4 (Exam 1) – Dr. John Geiger
4.3.- Friday September 14	Invited speaker – Research talk
5.1.- Monday September 17	Arrival and Change: General Patterns for Organisms 1 (Exam 1)
5.2.- Wednesday September 19	Arrival and Change: General Patterns for Organisms 2 (Exam 1)
5.3.- Friday September 21	Arrival and Change: General Patterns for Organisms 3 (Exam 1)
6.1.- Monday September 24	Exam 1
6.2.- Wednesday September 26	Global Significance of Island Biodiversity-Evolution and Speciation 1 (Exam 2)
6.3.- Friday September 28	Global Significance of Island Biodiversity-Evolution and Speciation 2 (Exam 2)
7.1.- Monday October 1	Global Significance of Island Biodiversity-Evolution and Speciation 3 (Exam 2)
7.2.- Wednesday October 3	Caribbean Environments 1 (Exam 2)
7.3.- Friday October 5	Caribbean Environments 2 (Exam 2)
8.1.- Monday October 8	Caribbean Environments 3 (Exam 2)
8.2.- Wednesday October 10	Caribbean Environments 4 (Exam 2)
8.3.- Friday October 12	Caribbean Biogeography 1 (Exam 2)
9.1.- Monday October 15	Caribbean Biogeography 2 (Exam 2)
9.2.- Wednesday October 17	Caribbean Biogeography 3 (Exam 2)
9.3.- Friday October 19	Caribbean Vegetation and Ecology Caribbean Vegetation and Ecology 1 (Exam 2)
10.1.- Monday October 22	Caribbean Vegetation and Ecology Caribbean Vegetation and Ecology 2 (Exam 2)
10.2.- Wednesday October 24	Caribbean Vegetation and Ecology Caribbean Vegetation and Ecology 3 (Exam 2)
10.3.- Friday October 26	Caribbean Conservation Biology 1 (Exam 3)
11.1.- Monday October 29	Exam 2

Monday October 29	Last day to drop with a DR grade
11.2.- Wednesday October 31	Caribbean Conservation Biology 2 (Exam 3)
11.3.-Friday November 1	Caribbean Conservation Biology 3 (Exam 3)
12.1.- Monday November 5	Plant Biodiversity in the Caribbean Islands 1 (Exam 3)
12.2.- Wednesday November 7	Plant Biodiversity in the Caribbean Islands 2 (Exam 3)
12.3.- Friday November 9	Plant Biodiversity in the Caribbean Islands 3 (Exam 3)
13.1.- Monday November 12	Holiday – Veterans Day
13.2.- Wednesday November 14	Plant Biodiversity in the Caribbean Islands 4 (Exam 3)
13.3.- Friday November 16	Vertebrates in the Caribbean Islands 1 (Exam 3)
14.1.- Monday November 19	Vertebrates in the Caribbean Islands 2 (Exam 3)
14.2.- Wednesday November 21	Holiday – Thanksgiving
14.3.- Friday November 23	Vertebrates in the Caribbean Islands 3 (Exam 3)
15.1.- Monday November 26	Vertebrates in the Caribbean Islands 4 (Exam 3)
15.2.- Wednesday November 28	Exam 3
15.3.- Friday November 30	Class canceled
16 December 3-7	Week of final exam. Date and time to be announced

Course Description:

This one-semester, three-credit, undergraduate-level course is an introduction to the main issues concerning the evolution, conservation and diversification of the biota of the Caribbean Basin with a focus on the West Indies. It also includes an overview of major topics in Island Biology and Biodiversity. It will give the students a general knowledge of the biodiversity patterns of the biogeographical region where South Florida is located. This is one of the most fascinating and complex regions of the world. Lectures will cover the environmental history of the Caribbean and the major climatic and geological events that have shaped its environment.

Syllabus Document:

This syllabus serves as a legally binding contract between the professors and students. Every aspect of the course is outlined within this document. If there are any questions or problems

(e.g., schedule conflict with a holiday or personal issue), these need to be brought to our attention **THE FIRST WEEK OF CLASS**. Otherwise, all dates, class formats, etc. are set within this document. Any changes to the syllabus will be immediately shared with students in class and via electronic postings (i.e. emails, Canvas). Notice that the schedule posted in this syllabus is tentative and that it can be the subject of any changes as the course progresses.

Canvas:

The entire course will be administered through Canvas. The Canvas login can be found here: [FIU Canvas login](#). The syllabus, Power Point Presentations, and other class updates will be posted here. Students are responsible for checking the site and keeping up with all posted materials and information. Please contact us if you have questions about using this site. Please notice that class attendance is mandatory; therefore, announcements made in class have priority over information found in Canvas,

Lecture Structure:

- During our lectures, we will use active-learning approaches (i.e. **iClicker**) to help reinforce the learning experience. These activities are designed to draw you into the educational process. While this approach reduces lecture time, it does reinforce learning of key concepts and will help you develop critical thinking skills.
- Students must register their iClicker in Canvas. Details will be provided in class
- The first week of class Students must be certain that their clickers are functional. In the past students had huge problems with clickers that were bought as second-hand devices or that were loaned to them by friends. Having a non-functional clicker device is not an excuse for not being part of this learning initiative. We will have a very strict policy regarding students using functional clickers
- The first day of class we will have a member of the FIU iclicker unit who will provide details of the iclicker that can be used in this course and how to register this device in canvas. Students **cannot use** their smartphones or the internet to answer clicker questions. You can purchase the clickers at the MMC bookstore.
- Students **will NOT be allowed** to use the i-clickerGO which is used through smartphones/ipads/laptops because some of the lecture rooms we use do not have wi-fi and therefore the i-clickerGO will not work.
- If a student is caught with more than one clicker in their hand, the instructor will confiscate **both clickers, take a picture of the clicker ID numbers, return the clickers to the students and let them know that neither one of them will be receiving any credit at all for the clickers.**
- Lecture slides are produced just as a learning tool for students but the core course material will be delivered during the presentations. Therefore, **class attendance is mandatory** and critical to ultimate great success (i.e. an A grade). Clickers responses will

be used to evaluate your class attendance.

- There is no text-book on Caribbean Biodiversity and its conservation. Lecture notes are based on several texts and they are available as Power Point presentations. These presentations will be posted in FIU Canvas.
- Any material covered in the **instructor lectures, videos, and potential guest presentations** can be included in any of the texts/exams of this course. It is likely that part of this material will not be in the actual Power Points since it will be brought about during regular class discussions.
- **During our lectures we do not encourage the students to use their cell phones and smart phones as they are no good devices to follow the power point presentations and form our own teaching experience the students ALWAYS tend to use these devices or send emails or text-messages..**
- **We strongly encourage the students to take notes using a pencil/pen and note-book. All available studies show that this is the best mechanism for the students to learn as the instructors deliver their lectures**
- Chatting and eating are disruptive not only to the instructor but to the other students; therefore students are asked not to eat in class and not to chat with other students.
- In order for the students to follow the Power Point presentations and answer the clicker questions they should print the lecture slides in advance before each lecture. It is not a good idea to follow the lectures through a cell phone or even a lap-top.
- **Disability Students:** If you are registered with the Disability Center at FIU make sure to provide me with a copy of the document at the **beginning** of the semester so that I can accommodate you with whatever your needs are for the class.
- **Religious Holidays:** Students must notify us **at the beginning of the semester** if there is a conflict with their religious holiday and an exam date so that we can make accommodations from the very beginning.
- **Sexual Harassment Policy:** The Faculty Senate voted to require each professor to include a statement about this in the syllabus. FIU's sexual harassment policy is available online at: http://www.fiu.edu/hr/eop/Forms/Policies/Sexual_harassment.pdf
- All students must email Dr. Javier Francisco-Ortega their email address in the first two weeks of this course **ONLY** if they do not use their regular FIU email account. Students cannot use their relatives' or friends' email. This email should have the following information "**CARIBBEAN STUDENT (first line and subject line), PANTHERID, FIRSTNAME, LASTNAME, alternative email address**"
- **iClicker participation** for this course is **mandatory**. iClicker will account for 15% of the final grade. Starting the second week of the semester, for every clicker question done in class a student can receive a max of 2 points per clicker question. The student will get 1 point for participating in the question and another point for

getting the answer correct. So let's say that in one day of lecture there are 3 clicker questions, the student can receive up to 6 points that day. At the end of the semester we will add up all the RAW clicker points and whatever is the highest amount of RAW clicker points someone received in their section will be the student that receives a full 15 percentage points toward their final grade and everyone will be scaled from there. For example, if at the end of the semester the highest RAW clicker points someone received was 150 then that student will receive 15 ACTUAL clicker points to their final grade. All other students will be scaled from the top score based on percentages. Top 20% will receive a full 15 percentage points, Second 20% will receive 11 percentage points, Third 20% will receive 8 percentage points, Fourth 20% will receive 7 percentage points, and the last 20% will receive 3 percentage points. Due to the size of the class, points will only be recorded using the iClicker system.

- Students who do not purchase an iClicker or have a non-functional clicker will not receive any clicker points.
- It is the student's responsibility to check their clicker points online within a week of us posting it on Canvas. We do this so that they can make sure that their clicker is logging in their answers. This allows the instructor to fix any small technical issues. After that one week, there's nothing that the instructor can do if their clicker wasn't logging in points.
- Exams count for 85% of the final grade. There are three mid-term exams + one cumulative final and they count the same (28.3% of the final grade) for the final exam component. **There are no make-up exams**, but we will drop the lowest of the grades of these four exams.
- Grades follow this scale:

A	90-100
B+	89-87
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	74-79
C	70-73
D	50-69
F	49-0

Exams:

- An incomplete grade will be delivered under **VERY EXCEPTIONAL** circumstances such as **MAJOR UNEXPECTED** health problem of the student or his/her family. Therefore students who have major health issues that prevent them to come regularly to class and not to take at least two exams will receive an incomplete grade
- We encourage students to use the alternative of dropping the course if they feel that

they cannot fulfill academic requirements regarding learning exam content and mandatory class attendance.

- The exams will be based on all the material taught or discussed during classes. This material includes lectures from instructor, invited speaker presentations, and content of videos that might be shown in class. Each exam will be based on multiple choice questions.
- Please bring two sharpened #2 pencils with erasers to all exams. All other materials will have to be placed at the front or back of the class, so it is best not to carry anything to the room on exam day. You must sign your exam. It will be turned in when you are finished. No one can leave unless they have returned the exam. When you are finished, you must return ALL materials given to you during the test whether filled out or not. No talking is allowed. Cheating will be dealt with seriously and severely. Grades will be posted online **in** the Blackboard. Students can check their exams **(for a maximum period of 10 days after the exam has been taken)**, but exams will not be given back to the students. **Notes cannot be taken** when the exams are being checked. After the Final Exam students can check all of their exams. The day of the exam we strongly recommend the students to come to FIU long before the time of the exam. Students must plan well in advance their schedule for the exam day; it is their responsibility to be sure that the day of the exam they will not face any conflict with other activities and **that they can be in FIU at least one hour before the exam.** If the student cannot fulfill this requirement because he/she has conflicts with other personal/professional activities then the student **should not register for this course.**
- **ARRIVING LATE TO AN EXAM: (Please read this carefully as we will follow a very strict policy on this requirement)** If you arrive to an exam more than 20 minutes late, or after the first person finishes the test (whichever comes first) you will not be allowed to take the exam.
- We will follow strictly the "Student Handbook" regarding cheating. Procedures for both formal and informal procedures can be found under the section "Academic Misconduct" in the "Conduct & Policies" chapter. Anyone caught cheating will be asked to leave the class, will be given an "F" for the course and a petition will be sent to Academic Affairs. I will go strictly by the University's policy on this issue.
- No cell phone and hats are allowed. The student can only have on his/her desk a pencil, and eraser, and his/her panther ID.