BIOLOGY 560 B5
BIOLOGICAL INVASIONS
Winter, 2004

Time and Place:	TR 3:30–5:00, BIOL B409C.
Instructor:	Mark Lewis
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Office Hours:	TR 2:15-3:00.

The Course. Biol 560 B5 is for graduate students working in ecology who are interested in learning more about current topics, approaches, and methods in invasion biology. It is assumed that students have a background in ecology.

Structure. The course will have the following components.

1. Annotated bibliographic database. Our goal is to start by reviewing the four years of papers in the journal *Biological Invasions*, and categorize these papers into different areas. This will give an idea of the current literature. Each participant will be assigned an area and asked to include the best of these papers from *Biological Invasions*, plus other relevant papers, taken from the other journals and collections, into an annotated bibliography. The individual will be responsible for creating the list of the relevant papers, looking through the papers, creating the short summaries/comments on the papers, and inputting these into the bibliography. In the end, these biobligraphies will be merged into a document that can be used by all. We will use a common software for this (EndNote is proposed.)
2. Lead discussion of a key paper in invasion biology. For each individual, choice of the paper will come from the process of compiling their database (above). The presentation will start with a synopsis of the paper and a list of questions from the discussion leader, and then will move to general discussion. Each member of the class will be expected to read the paper and participate in the discussion.

3. Report synthesising current and future research in the assigned area. This could possibly form the foundation for a class 'paper', for those that are interested in taking it to the next step.
4. Class presentation of the report above.
5. Lead discussion after a visiting speaker makes a presentation. We have four speakers scheduled. They will speak to the class about their ongoing research in biological invasions, after which there will be about 20 minutes of discussion.

References. There will be a list of books and journals handed out Thursday. We will use journal articles and books for the basis of our discussion. There is no required text for the course. A number of the books will be on reserve in the Cameron Library.

Grading. If you are signed up for credit, I am required to give you a grade, and must be specific about the way the grade is calculated. You will be assigned points for each aspect of the class: annoted bibliography (20 points), report (40 points), lead discussion on paper (15 points), lead discussion for visitor (5 points), class presentation of report (10 points), participation in discussion consistently in each class throughout the term (10 points). Your points will be added and translated into a grade as follows: A+: 90+, A: 85–90, A-: 80–85, B+: 75–80, B:70–75, B-:65–70, C+: 60–65, C: 55–60, C-: 50–55, D: 45–50, F: 45-.

Required Course Outline Statement. Policy about course outlines can be found in Section 23.4(2) of the University Calendar. The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at www.ualberta.ca/secretariat/appeals.htm) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offense and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.