

## IB 203 Ecology Merit Discussion; Fall 2023

Mon 3:00 – 4:50 pm; 2090 NHB

### TA Information & Course Outline

Discussion TA: Terence Seldon Kwafo

E-mail Address: [skwafo@illinois.edu](mailto:skwafo@illinois.edu)

Office Hours: 3 - 4 pm Tuesday 2090 NHB  
Other times by appointment!



SIB Merit Director: Dr Lily Arias

Email: [larias@illinois.edu](mailto:larias@illinois.edu)

Moodle site: <https://learn.illinois.edu/course/view.php?id=75200>

Credits: 1 Hour

Welcome to Ecology 203 Merit!

**Purpose & Philosophy:** In merit workshops, you will develop your knowledge of ecology and scientific inquiry by actively engaging in group discussions, activities, and class presentations. Each week we will review material from the IB 203 lectures by working on problems designed to challenge and improve your critical-thinking skills. Merit is driven largely through cooperation in a group setting. You will not only be responsible for your own education but also contributing and helping your peers in class.

**Contacting the TA:** The best way to contact me is by email. I will try to respond promptly (within 24 hours), but if you do not hear from me within 48 hours, please feel free to send me another email. I'll do my best, but if you email me after 8 pm, do not expect a response until the next day.

**Office Hours:** Office hours will be held in 2090 NHB on Tuesdays 3 - 4 pm. If that time does not work for you or you would like scheduled one-on-one help, email me to set up an appointment.

**Grading:** You will receive a grade for your weekly preparation and participation – through IB 299 (1 credit hour, independent of your grade in IB 203). There will be two components to your grade:

#### 1. Quizzes: 5 points possible each class period

- Quizzes will be given at the beginning of each class period (10 mins).
- If you are late, you will only have the time left to take the quiz.
- No make-up if you are late or miss class unless with documented absence (arrange due dates with the TA).

#### 2. Worksheet/Participation: 10 points possible each class period

- Actively engage in group activities and contribute ideas during discussions, and answer questions during class.
- Project a positive, cooperative attitude when working with group members.
- Be on time! It is difficult to participate (and disruptive to your group members) if you arrive late to class. **Points will be deducted for tardiness.**
- Zero points for unexcused absences. We will follow the IB 203 course policies for excused absence criteria and excused absences need to be approved by the TA. Please be prepared to produce a note from the Emergency Dean or McKinley if needed.

## Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	Below 59

## Class Schedule

Date	Week	Topics
August 21	1	Introduction, Syllabus, and Class Expectations
August 28	2	Week 1 Discussion
September 4	<b>3</b>	<b>Labour Day – No Discussion</b>
September 11	4	Week 2 & 3 Discussion
September 18	<b>5</b>	<b>Mock Exam 1</b>
September 25	6	Summary of Weeks 4 & 5 and Review of Lecture Exam 1
October 2	7	Week 6 Discussion
October 9	8	Week 7 Discussion
October 16	9	Week 8 Discussion
October 23	<b>10</b>	<b>Mock Exam 2</b>
October 30	11	Summary of Weeks 9 & 10 and Review of Lecture Exam 2
November 6	12	Week 11 Discussion
November 13	13	Week 12 Discussion
November 20	<b>14</b>	<b>Fall Break</b>
November 27	15	Week 13 Discussion
December 4	16	<b>Week 15 Discussion &amp; Mock Exam 3</b>

## COVID-19 Information

Following University policy, all students are required to engage in appropriate behaviour to protect the health and safety of the community. Students are also required to follow the campus COVID-19 protocols.

Students who feel ill must not come to class. In addition, students who test positive for COVID-19 or have had an exposure that requires testing and/or quarantine must not attend class. The University will provide information to the instructor, in a manner that complies with privacy laws, about students in these latter categories. These students are judged to have excused absences for the class period and should contact the instructor via email about making up the work.

Students who fail to abide by these rules will first be asked to comply; if they refuse, they will be required to leave the classroom immediately. If a student is asked to leave the classroom, the non-compliant student will be judged to have an unexcused absence and reported to the Office for Student Conflict Resolution for disciplinary action. Accumulation of non-compliance complaints against a student may result in dismissal from the University.

## Face Coverings

Face covering will not be required in classrooms or any campus spaces except healthcare facilities (e.g., COVID-19 testing sites, McKinley Health Center, the Counseling Center, etc.). While we encourage those who wish to wear a face covering to do so, there are to be no additional expectations for face coverings for units, facilities, or events.

## Accommodations

To obtain disability-related academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids, students should contact both the instructors and the Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) as soon as possible (<https://www.disability.illinois.edu>). You can contact DRES at 1207 S. Oak Street, Champaign, (217) 333-1970, or via email at [disability@illinois.edu](mailto:disability@illinois.edu).

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)

In forming an inclusive course, we mean a course that values and creates space for all identities such as those based on ethnicity, culture, sexual identity, gender identity, religious identity and beyond. Research shows that inclusive courses allow for better learning outcomes, a more positive learning experience, better community, and better leadership training in engaging humanity.

In order to create an inclusive space in this course, we must all work to collaboratively create a safe and respected space that supports and encourages everyone to share their views and concerns. We must value multiple perspectives and experiences, while also reducing student experiences of marginalization. We must treat each other as individuals.

Students are encouraged to share any feedback on how instructors, TAs, or fellow students could work to better create this inclusive space. Feedback can be given to the instructors at any time, anonymously using our Inclusivity Feedback Form on Moodle (you may need to access this form via your Illinois Google Apps account, but know that the form is still anonymous).

### **Attendance**

See the COVID-19 information above. We realize that you have a life beyond the scope of this course. However, if you are unable to complete an assignment/attend class because of other obligations, you should notify the instructors ahead of time. It is good practice to prepare/post any assignments early before a planned absence.

Regular class attendance is expected of all students, but the lowest participation score for class attendance will be dropped to allow for extenuating circumstances. Again, students should inform instructors in advance of missing classes and generally adhere to the guidelines specified in the UIUC Student Code ([http://studentcode.illinois.edu/article1\\_part5\\_1-501.html](http://studentcode.illinois.edu/article1_part5_1-501.html)). **Reminder, if you are sick, stay home.**

### **Class Guidelines/Expectations**

- Be punctual and prepared.
- Respect, fellow students – critique ideas, not people
- Help others AND ask for help when you need it.
- Be active listeners; let people finish talking.
- Phones should be silent during class.
- Be mindful of each other's space

### **Academic Integrity**

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Examples of academic dishonesty include the following:

- Cheating
- Fabrication
- Facilitating infractions of academic integrity
- Plagiarism
- Bribes, favours, and threats
- Academic interference
- Examination by proxy
- Grade tampering
- Non-original works

Should an incident arise in which a student is thought to have violated academic integrity, the student will be processed under the disciplinary policy set forth in the Illinois Academic Integrity Policy, using the FAIR system. If you do not understand relevant definitions of academic infractions, contact your instructors for an explanation within the first week of class.

Most importantly, HAVE FUN!!!