COURSES INFORMATION FOR THE BSC. ECOLOGY

LEVEL I (24 CREDITS)

BIOC1015 Introduction to Biochemistry

BIOL1020 Diversity of Life I

BIOL1025 Diversity of Life II

BIOL1030 Introduction to Genetics

AND 12 Level I credits from any Faculty

LEVELS II & III (60 CREDITS)

LEVEL II (12 Credits)

BIOL2373 Skills for Biologists

ECOL2460 Essentials of Ecology

ECOL2461 Caribbean Island Biodiversity

ECOL2462 Marine Biota

AND Six (6) Credits from:

ECOL3461 Ecology of a Changing Planet

ECOL3100 Statistics for Ecologists

AND Twelve (12) Credits from:

ECOL3460 Biology & Ecology of Coral Reefs

ECOL3463 Tropical Crop Ecology

ECOL3462 Behaviour: An Evolutionary Approach

ECOL3990 Ecology Project (6 credits)

AND/OR

ENSC2000 Essentials of Oceanography

MICR3266 Ecology of Microorganisms

BIOC2371 Molecular Techniques

BIOL2372 Plants for Caribbean Landscapes

AND Thirty (30) Levels II and III credits from any Faculty. Three (3) of these credits can come from a Co-Curricular course.

AND 9 CREDITS: FOUNDATION COURSES

FOUN1006 Exposition For Academic Purposes

OR

FOUN1008 An Introduction to Professional Writing

AND

*FOUN 1101 Caribbean Civilization

*FOUN1301 Law, Economy, Governance and Society

*A student may substitute one of these with a Foreign Language course.

LEVEL I ECOLOGY COURSES

BIOC1015 INTRODUCTION TO BIOCHEMISTRY (3 Credits)

Pre-requisite: CAPE Chemistry Unit 1 (or CHEM0615) and CAPE Chemistry Unit 2 (or CHEM0625) or an approved equivalent

Anti-requisite: BIOC1351 Introductory Biochemistry

Syllabus: Water and acid/base chemistry: properties of water and aqueous solutions, ionization of water, weak acids and bases, buffers, Henderson-Hasselbach equation. Structure and function of biological molecules: lipids, carbohydrates, amino acids and proteins. Cell biology: structure and function of bacterial, plant and animal cells, and membrane transport. Cell fractionation: differential and sucrose centrifugation. Thermodynamics/bioenergetics: free energy, energy changes in redox reactions, ATP, substrate-level phosphorylation. Electron transport-based phosphorylation: oxidative phosphorylation in mitochondria, photophosphorylation in chloroplasts, chemiosmotic theory. Biochemical techniques: chromatography, electrophoresis. Carbohydrate metabolism: glycolysis and TCA cycle.

Teaching: 20 lectures (1h each), 6 tutorials (1h each) and 6 practical sessions (3h each),

Method of Examination:

Theory: Final Examination (2 hours)	50%
Theory: In-course tests and assignments	25%
Practical reports	25%

BIOL1020 - DIVERSITY OF LIFE I (3 Credits)

Pre-requisite: CAPE Biology Unit 1 (or BIOL0051) and CAPE Biology Unit 2 (or BIOL0052)

OR

CAPE Environmental Science Units 1 & 2 and CSEC Biology

Anti-requisite: BIOL1051 Biodiversity I

Syllabus: Evolution: Evolutionary theories. Mechanisms of evolution. Evidence of evolution. Ecology: Introduction to ecology. Major terrestrial biomes. Trophic structure and energy flow in ecosystems. The biodiversity concept. Two-species interactions within communities. Systematics: Principles of taxonomy (description, identification, nomenclature, classification) and the study of phylogeny. Classification systems. Simple cladograms. Microbial diversity: Microscopy: theoretical and practical aspects. Bacteria, Archaea, eukaryotic microorganisms, viruses. Plant diversity: What is a plant? Green algae: diversity of form, life cycles and sexual reproduction. Mosses & liverworts: key features, life cycle, spore dispersal mechanisms. Ferns & Fern allies: key features, life cycles. Evolution of seeds. Cycads & conifers: key features, life cycles. Angiosperms: unique attributes, floral trends, adaptations.

Teaching: 24 lectures (1h each) and 8 practical sessions (3h each).

Method of Examination:

Theory: Final examination (2 hours)	50%
Theory: In-course test(s)	10%
Practical: Reports, quizzes	30%
Practical: Final practical test	10%

BIOL1025 - DIVERSITY OF LIFE II (3 Credits)

Pre-requisite: CAPE Biology Unit 1 (or BIOL0051) and CAPE Biology Unit 2 (or BIOL0052)

OR

CAPE Environmental Science Units I & 2 and CSEC Biology

Anti-requisite:BIOL1052 Biodiversity II

Syllabus: Sponges – cell aggregate body plan; filter feeding. Cnidarians and ctenophores - diploblastic, blind sac, radially symmetrical body plan; polymorphism. Flatworms – acoelomate, triploblastic, bilaterally symmetrical blind sac body plan; comparison of parasitic and free-living. Nematodes and rotifers – pseudocoelomate tube-within-a-tube body plan; eutely; parthenogenesis; life cycles. Molluscs – soft-bodied coelomates with a shell; adaptive radiation. Annelids – segmented worms. Arthropods - factors responsible for their success. Echinoderms – their unique features. The invertebrate chordates. Fish - evolution of bone, jaws and paired fins; adaptations to life in water. Amphibians - challenges to life on land and how these were met. Amniotes – the amniote egg; comparisons of amniote integuments. Birds – adaptations for flight. Mammals - reproductive patterns.

Teaching: 24 lectures (1h each) and 12 practical sessions (2 h each).

Method of Examination:

Theory: Final Examination (2 hours) 50%

Theory: In-course tests 10%

Practical: Quizzes, lab reports, and lab test 40%

BIOL1030 - INTRODUCTION TO GENETICS (3 Credits)

Pre-requisite: CAPE Biology Unit 1 (or BIOL0051) and CAPE Biology Unit 2 (or BIOL0052)

OR

CAPE Environmental Science Units 1 & 2 and CSEC Biology

OR

BCC Associate degree in Biology

OR

BCC Associate degree in Environmental Science and CSEC Biology

Anti-requisite: None

Syllabus: Cell division: The cell cycle, mitosis and meiosis. Heredity: Mendelian genetics, modifications from the basic principles, epistasis, linkage and sex-linked genes. The Nature of the Genetic Material: Experimental evidence implicating the nucleic acids. DNA structure and DNA conformation. Organization of eukaryotic chromatin. DNA Replication and Assortment: Semi-conservative replication. Modes of replication. The Genetic Material as an Information Carrier: The Central Dogma. Collinearity. Transcription and translation in prokaryotes & eukaryotes. Population Genetics: Gene pools; Transmission of genes between generations; Hardy-Weinberg (2 and 3 alleles); Selection pressures; selection against a recessive allele; mutation and migration.

Teaching: 18 lectures (1h each), 6 tutorials (1h each) and 8 practical sessions (3h each).

Method of Examination:

Theory: Final Examination (2 hours)	50%
Theory: In-course test(s) and assignments	25%
Practical: Quizzes, exercises and reports	25%

NOTE: Twelve (12) Level 1 Credits from any Faculty also to be completed!

LEVELS II & III ECOLOGY COURSES

BIOL2373 - SKILLS FOR BIOLOGISTS (3 Credits)

Pre-requisites: 15 credits of level-1 courses including 6 credits from Level 1 BIOC/BIOL courses. Restricted to students majoring or minoring in Biology, Ecology, Microbiology or Biochemistry.

Restrictions: Not to be taken by persons who have passed BIOL1010 Basic Skills for Biologists.

Syllabus: Scientific enquiry, data handling and simple statistics: The scientific method. Developing a research plan. Simple experimental design. Categorical and continuous variables. Mode, median, mean, range, quartiles, variance and standard deviation. Hypothesis testing using p-values and confidence intervals. Frequency analysis (chi-square, odds ratio, relative risks). Separation of groups: Parametric tests (t-tests, ANOVA and LSD post-hoc test). Correlation analysis: Parametric (Pearson), Non-parametric (Spearman). Regression analysis (simple linear regression, multiple linear regression). Use of computer software tools for data analysis and presentation of results e.g. EXCEL, Genstat, R, SPSS. Data handling and graph preparation in Excel. Excel applications useful for descriptive statistics.

Dealing with numbers and simple mathematical relationships: Scientific notation, decimal places, significant figures. Simple calculations with number in scientific notation. Precision and accuracy. SI units and prefixes. The rules of exponents and logarithms. Simple calculations involving these. Scientific writing: The format of scientific reporting - Abstract, Introduction, Material and Methods, Results, Discussion, References. Finding relevant information on a topic using electronic and non-electronic sources. Citing and referencing sources. Understanding plagiarism. Common knowledge. Quotations. Use of text matching software, e.g. Turnitin.

Teaching: Twenty-four (24) hours of interactive lectures/tutorials AND Twelve (12) hours tutorials/assessments.

Method of Examination:

Coursework 100%

ECOL2460 - ESSENTIALS OF ECOLOGY (3 Credits)

Pre-requisites: BIOL1020 Diversity of Life I (or BIOL1051 Biodiversity I) AND BIOL1025 Diversity of Life II (or Biodiversity II)

Restrictions: Not to be taken by persons who have passed ECOL2051 Population Ecology

Syllabus: Individuals: Coping with environmental variation. **Populations:** Life history, population distribution and abundance and population dynamics. **Interactions among organisms:** Competition, predation and herbivory, parasitism, mutualism and commensalism. **Communities:** The nature of communities, changes in communities and species diversity in communities. **Ecosystems:** Production, energy flow and food webs, nutrient supply and cycling.

Teaching: Twenty-four lectures/tutorials and twenty-four hours of practical per semester.

Method of Examination:

Theory: Final Examination (2 hours)	50%
Theory: In-course Test(s)/Assignment(s)	20%
Practical:	30%

ECOL2461 - CARIBBEAN ISLAND BIODIVERSITY (3 Credits)

Pre-requisites: BIOL1020 Diversity of Life I (or BIOL1051 Biodiversity I) AND BIOL1025 Diversity of Life II (or BIOL1052 Biodiversity II)

Restrictions: Not to be taken by persons who have passed ECOL2453 Caribbean Island Biogeography

Syllabus: Plate tectonics and Caribbean island formation. Spatial and temporal climate variability in the Caribbean region. Major terrestrial and freshwater habitat types of the Caribbean. Typical plant and animal communities associated with these habitats. Natural and anthropogenic threats to Caribbean biota. Identification of species in the field using morphological and behavioural characteristics. Basic field survey methodology.

Teaching: Twenty-four lectures/tutorials and twenty-four hours of practical per semester.

Method of Examination:

Theory: Final Examination (2 hours)	50%
Theory: In-course Test(s)	10%
Practical: Field journal/assignments	40%

ECOL2462 - MARINE BIOTA (3 Credits)

Pre-requisites: ECOL2460 Essentials of Ecology (or ECOL2451 Population Ecology)

Restrictions: Not to be taken by persons who have passed ECOL2454 Marine Biology

Syllabus: The abiotic environment. Plankton and productivity. Cephalopods and fish. Adaptations to life in the epipelagic. Marine turtles, mammals and seabirds - diversity, distribution, adaptations for feeding and reproduction, key Caribbean species and conservation status. Life in the deep sea. Tropical coastal communities.

Teaching: Twenty-four lectures/tutorials and twenty-four hours of practical per semester.

Method of Examination:

Theory: Final Examination (2 hours)	50%
Theory: In-course Test(s)/Assignment(s)	20%
Practical: Laboratory/Field Work	30%

ECOL3461 - ECOLOGY OF A CHANGING PLANET (3 Credits)

Pre-requisites: ECOL2460 Essentials of Ecology or ECOL 2451 Population Ecology

Restrictions: Not to be taken by persons who have passed ECOL3451 Human Ecology & Conservation

Syllabus: Human population growth and migration patterns. Impacts of human colonization on biodiversity in previously uninhabited lands. Impacts of conversion of land to agriculture and increased water extraction on biodiversity. Accidental and deliberate introductions of invasive species and their ecological impacts on native biodiversity. Methods to prevent introduction and/or manage invasive terrestrial and marine species. How cultural value systems affect biodiversity use. The role of overexploitation in species declines and the strategies that have been used in species recovery. Location and Protection of biodiversity hotspots. Observed and predicted impacts of climate change on the biology and ecology of terrestrial and marine biodiversity. Conservation goals for the 21st century.

Teaching: Twenty-four lectures/tutorials and twenty-four hours of practical per semester.

Method of Examination:

Final Examination (2 hours)	60%
Coursework	40%

ECOL3100 - STATISTICS FOR ECOLOGISTS (3 Credits)

Pre-requisites: ECOL2460 Essentials of Ecology

Syllabus: The statistical background: Probability; permutations; populations and samples; descriptive versus inferential statistics; the normal distribution and confidence intervals; null and alternative hypotheses; alpha and beta error; data types. **The planning stage**: Formulation of ideas; background research; hypothesis formulation; experimental design (e.g. sampling procedures); identification of data needs; identification of relevant statistical tests: Tests for differences (from one to multiple samples), and Tests for linking data. **The recording stage**: configuration of datasets for analysis. **The analysis stage**: Data exploration and visualization; hypothesis testing; selection of parametric versus non-parametric statistical tests; evaluation of model fits. **The reporting stage**: Choice and production of graphics and summary statistic outputs.

Teaching: Twenty-four lectures/tutorials and twenty-four hours of practical per semester.

Method of Examination:

Coursework	100%
Theory	30%
Practical	70%

ECOL3460 - BIOLOGY & ECOLOGY OF CORAL REEFS (3 Credits)

Pre-requisites: ECOL2462 Marine Biota (or ECOL2454 Marine Biology). Students **must** be able to swim and snorkel competently.

Restrictions: Not to be taken by persons who have passed ECOL3423 Coral Reef Ecology

Syllabus: Distribution of coral reefs. Reef types. Reef formation and erosion. Anatomy and morphology of scleractinian corals. Calcification. Coral nutrition and reproduction. Ecology of coral communities, including reef community structure, zonation and dynamics; productivity and nutrient cycling; functional diversity and redundancy in coral reefs; sponge-algae-coral interactions; key trophic interactions; reef resilience and phase shifts. Major taxonomic groups of reef-associated organisms and their ecological function. The value and uses of Caribbean coral reef ecosystems. Threats to Caribbean coral reefs. Current trends in coral reef research.

Teaching: Twenty-four lectures/tutorials and twenty-four hours of practical per semester.

Method of Examination:

Final Examination (2 hours)	50%
Coursework: Theory	20%
Coursework: Practical	30%

ECOL 3463 - TROPICAL CROP ECOLOGY (3 Credits)

Pre-requisites: ECOL2460 Essentials of Ecology (or ECOL2451 Population Ecology) AND BIOL1030 Introduction to Genetics (or BIOL1151 Introductory Genetics).

Restrictions: Not to be taken by persons who have passed ECOL3453 Crop Ecology

Syllabus: Introduction: Tropical crop productions systems and agro-ecosystems; Physical and biological environments of crops; Social constraints to crop production; Conventional vs. Alternative agriculture. Crop evolution, distribution, propagation and breeding of tropical crops. Soil factors; Physical and Chemical properties of soil; Root room; tilth, aeration; pH; Salinity; Tolerance mechanisms; Management under tropical conditions. Mineral nutrition; Deficiency/Toxicity effects; Tolerance mechanisms; Mineral balance of plants and plant communities; Management options in the tropics. Radiation distribution in tropical crops; Photosynthesis & bio-productivity; High and low irradiance tolerance; Carbon balance of crops; Management options. Physiological effects of temperature; Heat tolerance; Energy balance and evapotranspiration; Management options (1 lecture). Crops and water; Water injury (drought/flood); Tolerance mechanisms; Water balance of plants and plant communities; Management options in the tropics. Tropical crop diseases; Integrated management. Tropical crop pests; Biological control; Integrated management. Weeds; Integrated management in the tropics. Tropical agroforestry cropping systems. Course Review.

Teaching: Two lectures, one tutorial and three hours of practical per week.

Method of Examination:

Final Examination (2 hours)	60%
Coursework	40%

ECOL3462 - BEHAVIOUR: AN EVOLUTIONARY APPROACH (3 Credits)

Pre-requisites: ECOL2460 Essentials of Ecology or ECOL 2451 Population Ecology

Restrictions: Not to be taken by persons who have passed ECOL3452 Behavioural Ecology

Syllabus: Observing and measuring behaviour. Behaviour development and expression. Optimal foraging theory. Benefits and costs of sociality. Reproduction and mate choice. Parental investment and parental care. Applications of behavioural ecology to animal husbandry and conservation.

Teaching: Twenty-four lectures/tutorials and twenty-four hours of practical per semester.

Method of Examination:

Final Examination (2 hours)	60%
Coursework	40%

ECOL3990 - ECOLOGY PROJECT (6 Credits)

Pre-requisites: BIOL2373 Skills for Biologists or BIOL1010 Basic Skills for Biologists AND 12 credits from Level II or III ECOL courses. Students with a GPA of 3.00 or above are preferred.

Restrictions: Not to be taken with BIOL3901 Multidisciplinary Project, BIOL3990 Biology Project, MICR3990 Microbiology Project, BIOC3990 Biochemistry Project, or by persons who have passed BIOC3950 Biochemistry Research Project, BIOL3950 Biology Research Project, MICR3950 Microbiology Research Project, ECOL3950 Ecology Research Project, ENSC3900 Research Project in Environmental Science or CHEM 3505 Research Project.

Syllabus: Elements of scientific research. Research questions. Research ethics. Review of the scientific literature. Research proposal. Collection of data. Analysis of data. Project report writing. Oral presentation. Selection of a topic that addresses real ecological questions, whether pure or applied. Suggestions for specific topics may be considered from students but final proposed topics must come from the prospective supervisor and the Department must have the resources to execute the research.

Method of Examination:

Project report	70%
Seminar	15%
Supervisor assessment	15%

ENSC2000 - ESSENTIALS OF OCEANOGRAPHY (3 Credits)

Pre-requisites: METE1110 Introduction to Ocean and Climate **OR** ENSC1000 Earth and its Environment **OR** METE1200 Oceans and Climate

Syllabus: Oceanography is the scientific study of all aspects of the marine environment. This course is designed to provide a working knowledge of important ocean processes by integrating relevant aspects of physical, chemical and biological oceanography. It will provide the student with tools to assess information on the major geographic features of the ocean basins and their origin, the chemistry of the ocean and its role in regulating climate and productivity, the origins and dynamics of wind waves, tsunamis, tides and coastal processes, and marine pollution problems. The lectures/tutorials will focus on the description and explanation of the ocean as an integrated system, whilst wet and dry practical sessions (including field exercises) will deal with application to working scenarios to underpin the theory provided. Laboratory exercises will emphasize problem solving, and data analysis and interpretation, leading to a working knowledge of oceanographic processes.

Teaching: Twenty-four (24) hours of lectures/tutorials; twenty-four (24) hours of practical exercises/fieldwork.

Method of Examination:

Theory: Final Examination (2 hours)	50%
Theory: In-course Test(s)/Assignment(s)	20%
Practical/field work	30%

MICR3266 - ECOLOGY OF MICROORGANISMS (3 Credits)

Pre-requisites: MICR2260 Essential Microbiology (or MICR2251 General Microbiology), AND MICR2261 Eukaryotic Microbes (or MICR2252 Eukaryotic Micro-organisms).

Restrictions: Not to be taken by persons who have passed MICR3252 Microbial Ecology.

Syllabus: Introduction to microbial ecology. Role of microorganisms in ecology and evolution. Microbial habitats. Methods used in microbial ecology. Microbe-microbe interactions. Microbe-plant interactions. Microbe-animal interactions. Microbial communities. Biogeochemical cycles. Biomineralisation. Microbial weathering. Microbial decomposition of natural compounds. Bioremediation.

Teaching: Eighteen (18) hours of lectures; Six (6) hours of tutorials; Twenty-four (24) hours of practical/field work.

Method of Examination:

Theory: Final Examination (2 hours)	50%
Theory: In-course Test(s)/Assignment(s)	15%
Practical: Laboratory/Field work	35%

BIOC2371 - MOLECULAR TECHNIQUES (3 Credits)

Pre-requisites: BIOL1030 Introduction to Genetics (or BIOL1151 Introductory Genetics)

Restrictions: Not to be taken by persons who have passed BIOL2152 General Molecular Biology

Syllabus: Isolation, detection and quantification of DNA, RNA and proteins. Gel electrophoresis and blotting techniques. Restriction and modification systems. Restriction mapping. Hybridization techniques. Gene and protein sequencing. Cloning and expression vectors. Cloning strategies. Construction of Gene libraries. Gene transfer systems. In vitro mutagenesis. Vector systems and detection tools. Selected new generation molecular techniques used in research.

Teaching: Eighteen (18) hours of lectures; Six (6) hours of tutorials and Twenty-four (24) hours of practicals.

Method of Examination:

Theory: Final Examination (2 hours)	50%
Theory: In-course Test(s)/Assignment(s)	25%
Practical:	25%

BIOL2372 - PLANTS FOR CARIBBEAN LANDSCAPES (3 Credits)

Pre-requisites: BIOL1020 Diversity of Life I

Restrictions: Not to be taken by persons who have passed BIOL2058 Tropical Ornamental Plants

Syllabus: Current plant classification, focusing on angiosperms. Basal Angiosperms, Monocots and Eudicots. Descriptive botanical terminology. Features of key Basal Angiosperm, Monocot and Eudicot families of the tropics with examples from the Caribbean garden flora. Classification of ornamental plants according to horticultural usage. Natives vs. exotics in horticulture. CITES & plant importation.

Teaching: Eighteen (18) hours of lectures; six (6) hours of tutorials; twenty-four (24) hours of practical/field work.

Method of Examination:

Theory: Final Examination (2 hours)	40%
Theory: In-course Test(s)/Assignment(s)	10%
Practical: Laboratory/Field work	50%

***NOTE: Thirty (30) Level II and III Credits from any Faculty to also be completed. Three (3) of these Credits can come from a Co-Curricular Course.**

FOUNDATION COURSES INFORMATION

FOUN 1006 EXPOSITION FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSES (3 Credits)

This course is designed to: (1) equip students with the study and research skills they will need in order to get the maximum benefit from all their courses at the University; (2) familiarize them with the linguistic situation in the Caribbean and break down common misconceptions they usually have about it; (3) introduce students to the rhetorical modes of discourse; and (4) develop skill in critical thinking and reading.

(Cannot be taken with FOUN1008)

FOUN 1008 AN INTRODUCTION TO PROFESSIONAL WRITING (3 Credits)

This course is designed to help students develop skills common to all professional, workplace-oriented writing, whether in business or science.

(Cannot be taken with FOUN1006)

FOUN 1101 CARIBBEAN CIVILIZATION (3 Credits)

This course is designed to develop an awareness of the main process of cultural development in Caribbean societies, highlighting the factors, the problematics and the creative output that have fed the emergence of Caribbean identities; to develop a perception of the Caribbean as wider than island nations or linguistic blocs; to stimulate students' interest in, and commitment to Caribbean civilization and to further their self-determination.

FOUN 1301 LAW, GOVERNANCE, ECONOMY AND SOCIETY (3 Credits)

This is a multi-disciplinary course of the Faculty of Social Sciences which is designed mainly for non-Social Sciences students. The course will introduce students to some of the major institutions in Caribbean society. It will expose them to both historical and contemporary aspects of Caribbean society, including Caribbean legal, political and economic systems. In addition, Caribbean culture and Caribbean social problems are discussed.

REPLACING A FOUNDATION COURSE WITH A FOREIGN LANGUAGE COURSE

Students in the Faculty of Science and Technology may replace FOUN1101 Caribbean Civilization OR FOUN1301 Law, Governance, Economy and Society with a foreign language course in French, Spanish, Portuguese or Chinese. Students seeking to do such should notify the faculty office via use of Foundation Course Substitution Form on the student resources page of the faculty website.