

*Urban Ecology*  
Spring Semester 2007

Instructors: Fred Adler (adler@math.utah.edu).  
Office hour: Wednesday 1-2 pm (319 South Biology)  
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Office hour: Monday 8-9 am (320 South Biology)

Course Website: <http://www.math.utah.edu/~adler/urban/index.html>

Time: Tuesday/Thursday 9:10 - 10:30

Place: ASB 404

Course Description: This course is intended to explore the impact, mainly with respect to urbanization, that humans have on their surrounding ecology. Therefore, the primary focus will be on the interaction between biological and physical properties within an urban setting. The course is designed to use the urban ecosystem to explore connections between various disciplines. There are no prerequisites, however, a modest understanding of general ecological principles (e.g., competition, natural selection, food webs, nutrient cycles) will be helpful. The course will be composed of several elements. Class on most Tuesdays will be organized primarily as a lecture-style format where general concepts will be presented. On most Thursdays, the class will focus on a few particular points and explore them in more detail (either with a guest that specializes in a certain research field or with a project). There will also be several local fieldtrips planned throughout the semester, and the potential to visit local sites as part of a research project.

Reading: There is no textbook for this class. There will be several readings, taken from the primary literature, that will be handed out each week. Students will also be expected to find additional material from the primary literature for projects and writing assignments. Please make sure to read **all** of the material **before** class.

Grading: The final grade for this course will be comprised of:

- 40% tests (1 midterm 01 March, and 1 take-home final due 01 May 12:00 pm)
- 20% semester project (class presentation and written report due 26 April)
- 20% writing assignments (approx. 3 based on Thurs. discussions and due the following Tues.)
- 10% in-class exercises, quizzes etc. (short evaluations throughout the semester)
- 10% preparation/participation (based on evidence of reading and involvement in discussions).