Course Objectives: To acquire a working knowledge of the ecology of invasive species.

Goals: Students successfully completing this course will be able to:
1. Develop reasoning skills that will provide each student the ability to address issues within the discipline of invasive species ecology and management.
2. Assess the characteristics of a species which increases the likelihood of becoming invasive.
3. Consciously raise questions when confronted with a situation concerning how to deal with an invasion.
4. Identify, evaluate, and describe characteristics of importance in invasive species ecology.
5. Integrate basic understanding of the consequences of invasive species with the human-driven (centered) desire and need for introduction of a “new” species.
6. Develop an understanding and appreciation for the various methods (e.g. laws) used globally to limit invasion by a non-native species into a “new” habitat.
7. Develop skills necessary to critically read, review and discuss a scientific, peer-reviewed journal article.

Course Requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module assignments</td>
<td>135 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussions</td>
<td>135 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project TBD</td>
<td>150 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Invasive Species Case Study</td>
<td>150 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Exams</td>
<td>250 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant letter of intent + proposal</td>
<td>180 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[collaborative (if desired)]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>1000 pts</strong></td>
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COURSE PREREQUISITES
This course focuses on the ecology of invasive species, thus a basic understanding of ecological principles would be helpful. Students must possess basic familiarity with file management, word processing and web browsing skills in order to succeed in this course. If you do not have these skills, a distance-learning course is not for you. While there will be some explanations on how to use Canvas (OSU’s online classroom system), it is hoped that you are familiar with the basics of how to use an online classroom management system before taking this course.

Students must have regular access to a computer with an internet connection. A high-speed connection is preferred, as we will occasionally watch video clips that require a fast connection. All assignments should be submitted in Microsoft Word, powerpoint, or as a pdf. I cannot accommodate any other word processing file formats.
NAVIGATING THE COURSE
Students are responsible for reading and following the course syllabus. The course web site is scheduled to open on the first day of the semester.

Go to my.okstate.edu and login by using your Okey Username and Okey Password (you will have received an email from Mary Ellen Givens explaining this). Click on the “Canvas” link for information and access to OSU’s online classroom. This will bring up your account with Canvas—click on NREM 5033 Fall 2019. There will be tabs where the course information will be posted. Modules will include all information for that week, such as PowerPoints, Assignment Outlines, and Readings. Discussions will be under the Discussion tab, and assignments can be submitted through individual assignments. Periodic updates will be provided.

COURSE ORGANIZATION
This course is organized into 4 modules, each sub-divided into weekly sub-modules. Each sub-module will be organized around the activities and requirements for an individual week.

The requirements will be organized similarly for each weekly/bi-weekly sub-module and typically will include the following:
- Reading Assignment from textbook and/or journal article
- Powerpoint (10-15 min overview of sub-module topic)
- Module assignments
- Module discussion of topics via Canvas (OSU’s online classroom management system)

Activities: For each module, you will complete one or more “assignments” that build on the concepts presented in the reading and discussions. Assignment schedule, details and due dates will be posted in the News or Content area of the Online Classroom for each module. It is the responsibility of the participant to make sure that all assignments are submitted correctly and on time, according to the assignment instructions. Any assignments not submitted correctly or on time will be considered late (see late work policy below).

Readings: Readings will be posted on Canvas or will be from articles referred to in the literature.

The Discussion Board:
Active participation in course discussions is a major expectation of this course. Two (2) posts are to be made by Thursday no later than midnight; one post is to respond to the facilitator’s questions and one post is your response to another group members’ post. In addition, please respond (post) to AT LEAST three (3) other participants’ posts by midnight, Sunday each week. A minimum of five (5) posts per week is required. You are encouraged to exceed this minimum expectation. The minimum requirements are to get a conversation started. Whether or not a conversation expands beyond this is up to you and the other participants. You should also plan to read all posts (even those you don’t respond to).

Quality of Postings - Your posts should be comparable to the kinds of comments you would make in a face-to-face course. A three-page essay will not lend to quality discussion. On the other hand, neither will only saying “I agree!” Please consider this when you post. The quality of the online discussion is contingent on the quality (not length) of the posts of those in the discussion. A rubric of quality discussion is provided below. Note: Also see the Netiquette section for tips on appropriate discussion board behavior.
**Participation Expectations** - I expect you to be an active and engaged member of this learning community. We will communicate with each other mainly via the Canvas Discussion Board. For discussion, you are expected to post five (5) times each week (see quantity of postings below).

### Online Ecology of Invasive Species Discussion Score Guidelines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>1 (lowest score)</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4 (highest score)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Promptness and Initiative</td>
<td>Does not respond to most postings; rarely participates freely</td>
<td>Responds to most postings several days after initial discussion; limited initiative</td>
<td>Responds to most postings within a 48 hour period; requires occasional prompting to post</td>
<td>Consistently responds to postings in less than 48 hours; demonstrates good self initiative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relevance of Post</td>
<td>Makes postings that do not relate to the discussion content; makes short or irrelevant remarks</td>
<td>Occasionally posts off topic; most posts are short in length and offer no further insight into the topic</td>
<td>Frequently makes postings that are related to the discussion content; prompts further discussion of the topic</td>
<td>Consistently makes postings related to the discussion topic; cites additional references related to the topic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expression Within the Post</td>
<td>Does not express opinions or ideas clearly; no connection to the topic</td>
<td>Unclear connection to the topic evidenced in minimal expression of opinions or ideas</td>
<td>Opinions and ideas are stated clearly with occasional lack of connection to the topic</td>
<td>Expresses opinions and ideas in a clear and concise manner with obvious connection to the topic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution to Class</td>
<td>Does not make an effort to participate in class as it develops; seems indifferent</td>
<td>Occasionally makes meaningful reflection on group efforts; marginal effort to become involved in the group</td>
<td>Frequently attempts to direct the discussion and to present a relevant viewpoint for consideration by the group</td>
<td>Aware of need of the class; frequently attempts to motivate the group discussion; presents a creative approach to the topic</td>
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**Late Work:** All module activities are due by Sunday night (11:59 pm) of that week unless otherwise stated. Turning work in on time is a sign of professionalism and respect for not only your instructor but the other participants in the course. Any assignment turned in late will only be worth 50% of the possible value. No assignment will be assessed that is received after the next module’s completion date. For example, if we are working on Week 5, work from Week 3 will not be evaluated. If 3 assignments are turned in late, you will be asked to withdraw from the course.
COURSE FORMAT AND REQUIREMENTS
This is an online course, and, as such, it will require frequent, active participation from the enrolled students and a good deal of self-motivated learning. Plan on logging onto Canvas at least three times per week for an hour at a time to complete your assignments and engage with your peers (this is the equivalent of “face-time” in a regular class, no more, no less). The syllabus details a schedule of readings, and this schedule must be adhered to.

I would recommend you manage your time in the following ways:

- **On MONDAY** of each week, examine the overview for the week and view the powerpoint “Lecture” & begin reading the assignments for week. Complete by WEDNESDAY and post your first discussion response (see below for details about Discussion).
- **By THURSDAY** of each week, examine the “Discussion posts” and provide at least TWO posts. Complete by SATURDAY and post your remaining discussion responses (see below for details about Discussion).
- **By SUNDAY** of each week, read through your peers’ discussion postings and reply to THREE (see below for details about Discussion).
- **SUNDAY** at 11:59 pm (Central Time) will be the last day/time you can post to the Discussion Forum and receive credit for the week. **Anything posted after that will not be credited.**

MAKE-UP POLICY
Students are provided a due date for the weekly assignments and are expected to manage their time in ways that all assignments are completed by the due date.

Please begin your work soon after the weekly sub-modules are open so you will not experience time management problems due to unexpected events later in the week. Exceptions to this policy are made only in extenuating circumstances (e.g., emergency surgery) and MUST be discussed with the instructor via email (karen.hickman@okstate.edu) or phone (405-744-9579 or 405-744-5395).

CONTACTING THE INSTRUCTOR
At the beginning of the semester please email me with a subject line of “NREM 5033” so I will recognize the email is from a class member. I will attempt to reply within 2 days, except on the weekends when I may or may not be available.

Use of Email – Because of the volume of emails received, professional and courteous use of email is essential. Please follow the following guidelines.

- Since the answers to questions about sub-modules may be of interest to other students, each week, a question and answer board will be available to answer questions about the Module.
- Communication between the instructor and students via email need to follow professional etiquette.
  - Before you send an email, ask yourself if this is a question that merits the time it will take the instructor to respond. If the question can easily be answered through a discussion board entry, please use the board instead of sending an email.
- The instructor only responds to emails when the student clearly identifies himself/herself. When sending emails through Canvas, only the email address shows. Thus, you need to add your name to the end of the email.
- Use complete sentences and appropriate grammar in your email.
- Allow adequate time for responses and recognize that email failures occur. Thus, if you have not heard back in three days it is acceptable to re-send your inquiry.
• All grades that are available will be posted on Canvas for you to view at your convenience.
  • If you believe there is an error in your grade, you may send an email to ask the instructor stating specific reasons why you believe your score is in error. In rare cases where a change is made, the change will be reflected on the grades section of Canvas.

“ATTENDANCE”
The success of this course depends on each participant (instructor and students) to actively contribute to this online community of learners. For this reason, all participants are expected to facilitate the development of this learning community. Attendance in an asynchronous online course is not based on “seat time,” but instead is based on course activity. Activities that represent attendance include completing assignments, constructive contributions to discussions, and openly reflecting on the learning process.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY
“Oklahoma State University is committed to the maintenance of the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct of its members. This level of ethical behavior and integrity will be maintained in this course. Participating in a behavior that violates academic integrity (e.g., unauthorized collaboration, plagiarism, multiple submissions, cheating on examinations, fabricating information, helping another person cheat, unauthorized advance access to examinations, altering or destroying the work of others, and fraudulently altering academic records) will result in your being sanctioned. Violations may subject you to disciplinary action including the following: receiving a failing grade on an assignment, examination or course, receiving a notation of a violation of academic integrity on your transcript (F!), and being suspended from the University. You have the right to appeal the charge. Contact the Office of Academic Affairs, 101 Whitehurst, 405-744-5627, academicintegrity.okstate.edu.” Read the complete Academic Integrity Policy at: http://academicintegrity.okstate.edu/doc/2-0822-ai.pdf
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE - FALL 2019

Week 1 (8/19): Introduction

Week 2 (8/26): Introduction & Terminology

Week 3 (9/2): Sources of Invasion

Week 4 (9/9): Population Level Characteristics and Introduction to Grant Proposal Project

Week 5 (9/16): Stages of Invasion

Week 6 (9/23): Community Level Effects Part I & Introduction to Case Study Project

Week 7 (9/30): Community Level Interactions Part II

Week 8 (10/7): Exam 1

Week 9 (10/14): Ecosystem Level Effects Part I

Week 10 (10/21): Ecosystem Level Effects Part II

Week 11 (10/28): Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR)

Week 12 (11/4): Management Part I

Week 13 (11/11): Management Part II Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Week 14 (11/18): Exam 2

Week 15 (11/25): NO CLASS. THANKSGIVING BREAK.

Week 16 (12/2): Novel Ecosystems