

## Wessex Class Overview & Course Expectations

### Course Name: Introduction to Ecology

1:45pm-3:15 pm, 2016-17 Fall semester

Text: Assorted readings

Instructor: Mr. Boyd

Contact: 208-301-4737, [hmsboyd@gmail.com](mailto:hmsboyd@gmail.com)

### General overview:

In this class students will be introduced to the field of ecology with a special emphasis on the plant and vertebrate communities of the Palouse. A significant portion of this class will be spent out in the elements learning field ecology techniques, observing, and taking notes/sketching in field journals. This will take place at the South Fork of the Palouse River, the adjacent University of Idaho Arboretum & Botanical Garden and surrounding lands, a short walk from Bridge Bible Fellowship. Students will be introduced to classic works of ecology and natural history and be challenged to think and write about stewardship problems we are tasked with addressing as part of the dominion mandate our good Lord has given us.

**Materials needed:** field notebook, pencil, hand lens, compass, water bottle, boots (hiking or wading), and binoculars

### What to have with you for each class:

- In addition to the above items you will want a folder to hold handouts

**Assignments:** This is a field class and so I want the majority of assignments to be directly applicable to understanding the ecology that surrounds us. Much of the work will entail learning to correctly identify different living creatures, recording observations (written and drawn) in a field journal, reading select articles and webpages and answering questions, and correctly performing field work.

### Activities:

Bird Identification

Plant Identification

Insect Identification

Water quality monitoring

Mapping and orienteering

Phenology observation

Journaling

Biodiversity index

### Grades:

After demonstrating mastery of select field ecology, orientation, and other outdoor science skills, students will receive a certificate of completion and be eligible to receive the David

Douglas Explorer Naturalist award. This is the award for Level One ecologists allowing them to advance to level two.

*And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding beyond measure, and breadth of mind like the sand on the seashore, so that Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the people of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt. For he was wiser than all other men, wiser than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, Calcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol, and his fame was in all the surrounding nations. He also spoke 3,000 proverbs, and his songs were 1,005. He spoke of trees, from the cedar that is in Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of the wall. He spoke also of beasts, and of birds, and of reptiles, and of fish. And people of all nations came to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and from all the kings of the earth, who had heard of his wisdom.*

Week 1: August 26 Assignment (to do before Friday)

- Study the birds on our list in a field guide or here: <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide>

#### Palouse Ecology Bird Identification List

- Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*)
- Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*)
- Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)
- Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*)
- Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)
- Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*)
- Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)
- Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*)
- Gray Partridge (*Perdix perdix*)
- Ring-necked pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*)
- California quail (*Callipepla gambelii*)
- Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*)
- Caliope hummingbird
- Great-horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*)
- Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)
- Downy woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*)
- Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*)
- Black-billed Magpie (*Pica pica*)
- Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*)
- Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*)
- Black-capped chickadee (*Poecile atricapilla*)
- Red-breasted nuthatch (*Sitta candensis*)
- American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*)
- Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*)
- Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*)
- Common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*)
- Western bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*)
- Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*)
- Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*)