

Ecology and its Applications

CRN 37260

Department of Urban and Regional Planning

Lecture: Mon. and Wed., 1:00 pm–1:50 pm

Sections: Fri., various times

Education Building, Room 2

Daniel Schneider, Professor

Natural Sciences and Technology/Life Sciences

General Education Course



Who Should Take the Course

- Are you concerned about issues like climate change and cities, invasive species, alternative energy, evolution and pesticide resistance, urban wildlife, ecology and environmental justice?
- Are you interested in an Urban Planning perspective to the study of ecosystems, focusing on how natural ecological systems operate, how human activities affect these systems, and how constraints on these systems affect society?
- Do you want to be more aware of your environment through issues such as bacteria-contaminated poultry, Lyme disease, algae choked lakes, and more?
- Are you interested in topics such as the collapse of fisheries, hunting deer in urban parks, and the protection of endangered species?

What's it All About

Invasive cane toads, zebra mussels and more! Humans play a critical role in Ecology, the scientific study of the interactions or organisms with each other and their environment. Through agriculture, forestry, energy production and settlement, the manipulation of these interactions is at the basis of human society. This course will examine these interactions from an Urban Planning perspective. We need to have an understanding of these ecological interactions in order to plan development, land uses, recreation, or conservation in a way that protects the functioning of ecosystems.

What You Will Do

- Learn to apply ecological science to real world problems like the spread of antibiotic resistant staph infections, the invasion of the Great Lakes by Asian carp, the role of Midwestern farmers in the Gulf of Mexico dead zone, the protection of Native American fishing rights in Wisconsin, culling deer in forest preserve districts, or the killing of joggers in the urban west by mountain lions.
- Learn how to analyze current problems for their underlying environmental and ecological issues.
- Learn about application of ecological principles to case studies drawn from Urban Planning, natural resource management, and sustainable development.



The Instructor

PHOTOGRAPH BY DANIEL SCHNEIDER
 DANIEL SCHNEIDER, PH.D., is an Associate Professor in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is also the Director of the Center for Urban and Regional Planning. He has published numerous articles and books on urban ecology and planning. He is currently working on a book about the ecology of urban parks.