Note: This class meets on campus every Wednesday 6:30-9:35pm in BYKH-205 for lab during the Fall semester. The lecture portion of this class is presented online. There is a mandatory, one-time, orientation meeting on Wed. August 27, 6:30pm in BYKH-211. We will meet for our first lab from 7:15-9:35pm, immediately after our orientation meeting, so please bring your lab book to the first class.

Welcome!

Welcome to the hybrid section of BIOSCI 106, Organismal & Environmental Biology. This course is for biology majors and provides an introduction to major plant and animal groups and principles of ecology and evolution. I am excited to get started and I look forward to meeting you at the mandatory orientation meeting on Wednesday, August 27th, 2014, 6:30 in room BYKH-211. Please note that if you do not attend this orientation meeting you will lose your spot in the class. At our orientation meeting you will receive a complete syllabus and course schedule as well as your course login information and a tour of our virtual classroom. Bring your email address to the meeting so that you can get started!

If you are interested in adding this course, please make sure you attend the mandatory orientation meeting and lab during the first week. Students are added into the online course account directly from the admissions office, but it may take 1-2 business days before the changes take effect. If you plan on taking the class, it is important that you don’t miss any of the lab meetings even if your enrollment into the course has not been finalized yet.

Technology and Course Materials that you will need:

You will need:
1. An email address that you will keep for the entire semester.
2. Access to a computer with reliable internet connection (at least 56 Kbps but preferably broadband)
3. A web browser such Internet Explorer (5.0, 5.5, 6.0) or Netscape Navigator (4.7)
4. Windows 95, 98, 2000, Me, NT, XP or Vista
5. A word processing program (such as MS Word)
6. Course texts:

7. Scantrons (4) - Form 882, #2 pencils, eraser and calculator (for exams)
What is different about an online class?

The instruction of this class is delivered in a hybrid online format. This means that the lecture portion will be presented online through Blackboard; our virtual classroom. The course URL is: http://bb8.canyons.edu. The lab portion, and all exams, will be presented “onground” at COC. **Lab sessions will be held every Wed. from 6:30-9:35pm in room BYKH-205.** There are obvious advantages to an online class—no traffic, work at your convenience, no nodding off in the back row (at least no one will know if you are!) and actually more interaction with your classmates (via our online discussion board) than you might otherwise have in a classroom setting. So, if you work well independently and have fairly good computer skills (can send and receive emails, copy and paste word documents, search the web, add attachments, etc.) then online learning is a great adventure. However, it is important to keep in mind that this online class is not designed to be easier or harder than a traditional class; just different. You will need to log in several times a week to keep up with assignments, announcements, and postings. You will also be required to complete online quizzes every week. You will be required to post, and to respond to others’ postings, on our discussion board. Student to student interaction is very important; we will miss you if you aren’t keeping up.

When deciding to take an online course, please keep in mind that COC doesn’t offer computer technical support for students, so if you have any technical difficulties, such as software or hardware problems on your computer, you will need to either troubleshoot on your own, or find an outside resource to help you with your questions. In order to determine whether you are ready to take an online course, please visit the main distance learning web site at [http://www.canyons.edu/offices/distance_learning/default.asp](http://www.canyons.edu/offices/distance_learning/default.asp), to take a number of self-assessment surveys designed to help you determine your readiness.

**Don’t hesitate to contact me!**

Please know that you are not alone in this online adventure. I am available via email and will see you every Wednesday in lab. I am also available by appointment to meet at other times.

My e-mail address is: [amy.foote@canyons.edu](mailto:amy.foote@canyons.edu). I will do my best to respond to your e-mail within 24 hours, however, please keep in mind that I do not monitor my e-mails 24/7, so there may be times where it takes me longer to reply. Please do not panic if you don’t hear back from me right away.

I look forward to meeting you and embarking on this exciting class together! **See you Wednesday 8/27, at 6:30pm in room BYKH-211, at the orientation meeting!**

Sincerely,

Amy Foote
Associate Adjunct Biology Instructor