University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

Curriculum Proposal Form #4R

# **Change in or Deletion of an Existing Course**

Type of Action (check all that apply)

Pre-requisite Change

Add Cross-listing \*  Technological Literacy

Course Deletion  Title Change   
 Number Change  Writing Requirement

(other)

**Effective Term**:

**Current Course Number** (*subject area and 3-digit course number)*: Biology 257   
**Cross-listing *(if applicable)***:

**New Course Number** (*subject area and 3-digit course number*):

**Cross-listing *(if applicable)***:

**\*If adding a cross-listing, include the following:**

Required in the major:   
  
Required in the minor:

Number of credits: Lab hours/week:    
  
Contact hours/week: Repeatable

**Current Course Title**: Introduction to Ecology

**New Course Title**:

**25-Character Abbreviation** *(if new title)*:

**Sponsor(s)**: Ellen Davis

**Department(s):** Biological Sciences

**College(s):**

**List all programs that are affected by this change:**

None

If programs are listed above, will this change affect the Catalog and Advising Reports for those programs? If so, have Form 2's been submitted for each of those programs?

(Form 2 is necessary to provide updates to the Catalog and Advising Reports)

NA  Yes  They will be submitted in the future

Proposal Information: ([***Procedures for form #4R***](http://acadaff.uww.edu/UCC/Curriculum_Handbook_09/Procedures_form4R.docx))

1. **Detailed explanation of changes** (use FROM/TO format)

***FROM:*** Prereq: BIOLOGY 141 and BIOLOGY 142 with a grade of "C" or better.

~~Unreq: BIOLOGY 214~~

***TO:*** Prereq: BIOLOGY 141 and BIOLOGY 142 with a grade of "C" or better.

## Justification for action

Unreqs in general can cause problems and confusion, and this seems to be particularly true for Biology 214 Ecology and Society, and Biology 257, Introduction to Ecology. The former is a course for non-biology majors, and is not accepted as a replacement for Bio 257 for Biology majors inasmuch as it simply does not prepare students well enough for the subsequent required ecology course, Biology 457. This has been a problem when, for example, non-Biology majors (education majors and environmental science minors, for example) have taken Biology 214, but then subsequently switch to or add a biology major. Because of the unreq situation, it is problematic for them to then take a course (biology 257) required by the major.

It is also possible for a student to fail Biology 257, then take and pass Biology 214. In this case, Biology 214 would automatically replace the earlier attempt in the AR, contrary to the intent of the requirements of the major. Moreover, all instructors involved in Biology 214 and 257 concur that the amount of overlap between the courses is not really sufficient to continue to consider them unreqs.