

Aquatic Invasive Ecology

BIOL 495A (CRN 34190)

BIOL 595A (CRN 34193)

Fall 2008

F 9:30 – 12:20 PM



Instructor: Leslie E. Dorworth

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Required Textbook: Lockwood, J.L., M.F. Hoopes and M.P. Marchetti 2007.
Invasion Ecology: Blackwell Publishing.

Course Description

Humans have an uncanny knack for introducing species to areas beyond their native range, giving the potential for these species to become biological invaders. The global epidemic of invasive species is rampant, representing a leading threat to national economies, human health, and cause tremendous ecological damage ranging from the extinction of native species to alteration of ecosystem processes. The negative impacts of invasive species are particularly evident in aquatic environments, including the Great Lakes, whose native freshwater biodiversity is under increasing threat from countless invasive species. *The objective of this course is to provide an understanding of the patterns, drivers and consequences of species invasions in freshwater, estuary and marine ecosystems.*

Expected Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course the student should have a strong understanding of the patterns, processes and consequences of species invasions in aquatic ecosystems. The student should also be able to think critically to evaluate literature and arguments, especially when faced with uncertainty and scientific disagreement; to more effectively communicate orally in small groups of peers and in scientific writing; and to develop an appreciation for the complex relationship between science, management and regulation.

Prerequisites

Students should have prior coursework in biology and have an understanding of basic ecological concepts.

