**BIO 120 Outdoor Environmental Observation Assignment**

Find a nice quiet area, preferably in a forest. You need only a pencil/pen and a notebook or a clipboard and this piece of paper. Turn your cell phone or any device that could be a distraction off. Better yet leave them at home or in your car. Spend the normal class time (1 hour and 15 minutes) observing what you see around you and record these items. Write up a short report (fully answering the questions below) on the environment you choose to observe.

What is the weather like?

What types of plants and animals do you see? Feel free to draw them as well if that helps you remember.

Choose one plant or animal and describe it in detail. Feel free to draw the major features you see. Is there anything that is special or different about this individual organism?

There are many animals that you might not see during your observation period. What are a few examples of evidence that animals you did not directly observe are in this environment? Describe this evidence and the possible animals in that left this evidence.

Draw a simple food chain based on the organisms you observed in this environment.

Describe any interactions you observed between organisms during this time? These interactions could be within a single species or between different species.

Turn over a few logs (on the ground) or a few rocks (in a stream). **Be careful of snakes, it might help to use a stick to push over log.** Describe what you see.

Close your eyes for a few minutes. What sounds did you hear? Describe each sound you heard. What possibly could have made those sounds?

Is there evidence of human disturbance in the environment? Describe the types of disturbances you observe?