

University of Toronto Scarborough – Department of Biological Sciences  
**BIOD33 – Comparative Animal Physiology – Fall 2017**

**Course Instructor:** **Dr. Jason Brown**  
Email: nysuloem.brown@utoronto.ca  
Office: Portable 104, Room 110  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:30am-12:30pm  
                  Thursdays 10:30am-1:30pm

**Teaching Assistant:** **Vernie Aguda**  
Email: vernie.aguda@mail.utoronto.ca

**Course Description:** This course will focus on the comparative aspects of animal physiology and address how various physiological systems are specialised to meet many of the **environmental challenges** encountered by terrestrial and aquatic environments. Topics include breathing, cardiovascular physiology, nutrition/feeding, energetics, thermal regulation, hibernation and ionic/osmotic regulation.

**Prerequisites:** BIOC33H3 or BIOC34H3

**Exclusions:** BGYD33H3



**Sustainability:** This course is recognized as a UTSC Green Course, meaning it has steps in place to reduce the amount of course-generated paper. Those steps are double-sided printing of exams, electronic submission and grading of all assignments, and no textbook.

**Lectures:** Thursdays 3:10-5pm, MW140

Tentative Lecture Topics:

- 1 – Life at High Altitude
- 2 – Life in Hypoxic and Anoxic Waters
- 3 – Life in Changing Salinity
- 4 – Life in Arid Environments
- 5 – Life in the Cold: Insect Cold Tolerance
- 6 – Life in the Cold: Mammalian Torpor
- 7 – Life out of the Cold: Bird Migration
- 8 – Life in the Deep Ocean\*\*
- 9 – Life in the Urban Environment

\*\*This lecture topic will only be covered if time permits.

Lecture notes will be posted (in PowerPoint format only) on Blackboard ~24 hours before each lecture. **NOTE: I reserve the right to make changes to the lecture notes after they are posted.**

**Textbook:** There is no textbook for this course. It may be worthwhile, however, to have access to an introductory animal physiology textbook in case you need to review any basic physiological concepts that underlie the advanced physiological concepts discussed in this course. *A basic animal physiology textbook is available via course reserve at the library.* This course will be taught primarily using studies from the primary scientific literature. References for the studies discussed will appear on the lecture slides so that, if desired, students can read these studies further on their own time. This is not required, however.

### **Evaluation:**

Term Tests	35%	(25% best; 10% worst)
Podcast Assignment	30%	
Final Exam	35%	

### **Important Notes Regarding Evaluations:**

#### **Term Tests**

There are two Term Tests in this course. The dates and times of the Term Tests will be determined by the Registrar's office during the first few weeks of the semester, and I will post this information on Blackboard as soon as it is available.

Term Tests may cover any material covered in this course, but the lectures emphasized on each Term Test will be announced in class and on Blackboard. Term Tests will be 2 hours and will comprise of short answer questions only. **Students will be evaluated based on the reasonableness, clarity, and conciseness of their written answers to the questions.** Students will have some choice with regards to which questions they answer (e.g., answer 1 of 2 short answer questions). **The Term Test questions will require students to think critically and creatively about the lecture content as students will be expected to explain novel observations and solve problems. This reflects my belief that undergraduate students need to develop not only their scientific knowledge but, more importantly, their competency for thinking, reasoning, and scientific inquiry. Some questions may also require that students utilize knowledge gained from other biology courses, which reflects that, as senior biology students, you should be capable of synthesizing concepts from various biological disciplines.**

To help student prepare for Term Tests, at the end of every week, an *optional* quiz (here *optional* means not worth any marks) will be posted on Blackboard. ***Students are strongly encouraged to discuss these quizzes with the course instructor when they encounter any difficulties, either by email or during office hours (preferred).***

If you know **in advance** that you cannot write a Term Test at the scheduled time because it conflicts with some other **valid activity**, please notify me as soon as possible so that we can plan for you to write the Term Test at an alternative time. **Any such alternative time must be before the scheduled date of the Term Test.**

If you miss a Term Test due to medical illness, then you must submit a detailed UTSC Medical Certificate filled out by the physician who saw you on the day of the Term Test. This note must be submitted to the course instructor as soon as possible following the Term Test, whether in person or via email. Other medical notes will not be accepted, and if the UTSC Medical Certificate is not completed to the satisfaction of the course instructor, it may be refused. The UTSC Medical Certificate can be found via the following link:

[http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~registrar/resources/pdf\\_general/UTSCmedicalcertificate.pdf](http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~registrar/resources/pdf_general/UTSCmedicalcertificate.pdf).

If you miss a Term Test for any other valid reason, please consult with the course instructor as soon as possible. The course instructor will determine whether the reason given for a missed Term Test is valid in accordance with university policies. Also, the course instructor may ask for any documentation required to verify the reason given.

Students who miss one Term Test for a valid reason (medical or otherwise) will not be permitted to write a make-up Term Test; rather, the weight of the remaining Term Test will be increased to 35% of their final grade. Students who miss both Term Tests for valid reasons will not be permitted to write make-up Term Tests; rather, the weight of their Final Exam will be increased to 65%, and they will be expected to submit an additional podcast clip worth 5% of their final grade. This podcast clip will be due no later than Monday, December 4.

Students who miss a Term Test for any invalid reason will receive a grade of zero for that Term Test.

### **Podcast Assignment**

The details of the Podcast Assignment (including submission deadlines) will be outlined in a PowerPoint presentation given during the first class. This presentation will be posted on Blackboard along with this syllabus and will constitute part of this syllabus.

### **Final Exam**

The Final Exam (3 hours) will be scheduled by the Registrar's office (December 7-20). The Final Exam will cover all material covered in the lectures throughout the course, though it will place considerable emphasis on the material covered since the last Term Test. It will have the same format and emphases as the Term Tests.

## Accessibility Needs:

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the AccessAbility Services Office as soon as possible. I will work with you and AccessAbility Services to ensure you can achieve your learning goals in this course. Enquiries are confidential. The UTSC AccessAbility Services staff (located in S302) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations (416) 287-7560 or [ability@utsc.utoronto.ca](mailto:ability@utsc.utoronto.ca).

## Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The University of Toronto's *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

- In papers and assignments:*
- using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement
  - submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor
  - making up sources or facts
  - obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment.
- On tests and exams:*
- using or possessing unauthorized aids;
  - looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test
  - misrepresenting your identity
- In academic work:*
- falsifying institutional documents or grades
  - falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. There are other offences covered under the Code, but these are the most common. ***Please respect these rules and the values that they protect.***