

BIO A01H3 Y -*Life on Earth: Unifying Principles* - Summer 2013

COURSE SYLLABUS

Welcome to Introductory Biology at UTSC!

Objectives and Outcomes

The primary goal of this UTSC course (BIO A01H3 Y) is to provide students with the strong foundation needed to become a successful biologist. During the term you will learn:

- (1) the major principles of cellular organization and metabolic processes, the principles of gene action and inheritance; and the fundamentals of evolution, speciation and population genetics;
- (2) the essential skills to become an active learner of science
- (3) some basic laboratory skills that are required to pursue your chosen field in science;
- (4) to combine the learning objectives mastered (in items 1-3 above): to read relevant biology research articles, analyze data, and communicate experimental results.
- (5) To construct a biology-knowledge scaffold to serve as a foundation for upper year studies in the areas of cellular, molecular, physiological and evolutionary biology studies.

Overview

BIO A01H3 Y is taught in the Summer Term (May to August) and consists of thirty-six lectures on Biology content (three 50-minute lectures in one 3-hour session per week) and five labs (one 3-hour lab practical every two weeks throughout the term).

The **Biology Lectures are on Tuesday**. There are **three modules consisting of 12 lectures per module**. The **first module** of the course will introduce students to cell structure and then explore the principles of energetics and cellular metabolism, using respiratory and photosynthetic pathways as two important examples. The **second module** will focus on the role of the nucleus in cellular function, cell proliferation and inheritance and examine processes including DNA synthesis, protein synthesis, cell division (mitosis, meiosis) and genetic principles. The **third module** will examine evolution as the framework in modern biology, and topics such as population, genetics, cladistics and speciation. The diversity of life is emphasized throughout this course with emphasis on prokaryotes, viruses/prions and protists covered during the “Tree of Life” lectures.

The **Biology Labs are scheduled on Tuesdays and, Wednesdays** (at times depending on your Practical Section (P0001 to P0005). These labs are led by teaching assistants (TAs) and are designed to provide students with opportunities to develop a variety of important skills that will be beneficial throughout their university experience in biology. Key concepts in science writing, math, statistics and critical thinking will be integrated into the course content.

Course Personnel

There are several key people you should get to know in this course: (1) the Instructors, (2) the Course Coordinator, (3) the Bio-Help TA and (4) your Lab TA.

(1) Instructors

- Dr. Karen Williams is the Instructor.

Office: **SW-563B** (only during office hours)

Office Hours: **TBA or by Appointment** (use your U of T email account for all emails)

Email: biolife@utsc.utoronto.ca (include *Williams* in subject line)

(2) Course/Lab Coordinator

- Dr. Robin Marushia is the Course Coordinator for BIO A01H3 Y for the Summer 2013 term. In addition to delivering the lectures, she will deal with matters such as late enrollment, missed tests, missed labs, marks management and general advising as related to the course as a whole. Office: **SY-246** (by appointment)

Office Hours: **by Appointment** (use your U of T email account for all emails).

Email: biolife@utsc.utoronto.ca (include *Marushia* in subject line)

(3) Teaching Assistant (TA) – Bio-Help TA

There is **one** Teaching Assistant who will attend lectures, and who will be familiar with the lab content. This **Bio-Help TA will be available in the Library to answer your questions about course content and help with problems encountered with lab assignments.** The **times and locations when the Bio-Help TA is available in the Library will be posted on the Course Webpage (Blackboard)** throughout the Summer 2013 Semester. Check for updates as the available hours will change as students' needs change during the term.

Charmaine Condry is the BioHelp TA for BIOA01H3 Y.

Office: AC254 (Library)

Office Hours: TBA on Blackboard

Email: charmaine.condry@mail.utoronto.ca

(4) Teaching Assistant (TA) – Practical TA

The **BIO A01H3 Y Labs are located in RoomSW-240.**

Students must attend the specific Practical (Lab Section) in which they are registered.

Each lab is led by a **Teaching Assistant (= TA)**, who will guide you through the lab exercises/experiments. Learn your Teaching Assistant's name and use the email address provided by your TA on your section's Blackboard page to contact your TA if you have questions/concerns regarding your labs or lab assignments.

Communication within BIO A01H3 Y

The key source for information for BIO A01H3 Y is Blackboard. Information such as contact information and office hours, lecture outlines and notes, assignment instructions, test dates and locations and other useful resources will be posted on Blackboard throughout the course. Announcements and the video-taped lectures (see Weboption and FSG links) for BIO A01H3 Y will be posted on Blackboard. Exam Marks will also be posted to the Blackboard Course Webpage.

Each Practical section also has its own Blackboard webpage; TA's will post information related to Practicals and Assignments on this webpage. Practical marks will be posted on the Blackboard Practical webpage. Please check the BIO A01H3 Y Blackboard Webpage frequently!

Always check the BIO A01H3 Y Blackboard Webpages (including the Discussion Board) for information before contacting the Instructors/Lab Coordinator, or your TA.

Events, such as Exam Viewings, are announced on Blackboard. Official announcements of these events will come through Blackboard once confirmed.

Students should use their UTORid to log on to BIO A01H3 Y Webpages. Log onto Blackboard by clicking the “Portal” link on the UTSC Homepage. Log onto the Intranet by clicking the “Intranet” link on the UTSC Homepage. NOTE: You will need a UTSC computer account in order to logon onto Blackboard and the UTSC Intranet. The instructions for setting up your account are given on the UTSC Intranet Logon Homepage.

One central email address serves BIOA01: biolife@utsc.utoronto.ca.

This is to help professors stay organized and answer your emails more quickly and effectively.

Please do not use professors' email addresses for BIOA01 communication!

Always use your UTSC or U of T email address for contacting the Instructors, the Course/Lab Coordinator, and the Teaching Assistants (TAs).

Emails from other email addresses will not be answered.

Include the Instructor's name you wish to email in the “Subject Line”

Course Materials:

(A) Textbooks and Lab Manual

1. The complete **Textbook Package can be purchased at the UTSC Bookstore** located above Tim Horton's in the Bladen Wing. It includes the following items:

(1) The **Textbook** for BIO A01H3 Y is:

Russell PJ, Wolfe SL, Hertz PE, Starr C, Fenton B, Addy H, Maxwell D, Haffie T, Davey K. 2012. *Biology: exploring the diversity of life. (2nd Canadian ed.)* 3-volume paperback. Toronto: Nelson Education Ltd.

The 1st Edition may be acceptable for some students; however, references to text will be incorrect.

(2) The **Textbook Website (CourseMate)** developed by the Publisher of the textbook has additional resources that students will find useful in both introductory biology courses (BIO A01F and BIO A02S). An Access Code to this site is included in the purchase.

2. The **Lab Manual** is a separate publication that is required for all Lab Practicals. It is entitled:

Olaveson M, Rush S., Gladilina E., Marushia, R. 2013. *BIO A01H3 Y - Life on earth: unifying principles - Lab Manual for Summer 2013*. Toronto, Ontario: University of Toronto Scarborough Printing Services.

There are major changes in the new Summer 2013 Lab Manual. Photocopies of old, and now out-of-date, lab manuals are NOT ACCEPTABLE. Assignments (purple pages) for 2013 are unique to this version of the Manual, and originals from the Manual are required to receive credit for your Practicals.

The **Lab Manual can be obtained from the Blackboard course page** (in the folder entitled "Practical Materials"). The Lab Manual is NOT FOR SALE at the Bookstore! The digital copy is the ONLY copy provided for Summer 2013!

Before Practical each week you must read and print off those materials necessary for your Practical, and bring those materials with you to your Lab. Copies of Lab Reports will not be provided by your TA! **It is your responsibility to bring your own Lab Manual materials to your Practical in order to complete your assignments.**

STUDENTS MUST HAVE THEIR OWN COPY OF THE APPROPRIATE LAB INFORMATION when they come to their Practical. It is the responsibility of each student to read each lab in advance and bring the Manual to each of their scheduled Practicals.

(B) Lab Coats / Protective Eyewear

Lab coats are required for all Biology labs at UTSC; protective eyewear is required for some labs as indicated in your Lab Manual. **Lab coats and protective eyewear are sold in various locations on campus (BioSA, EPSA, Bookstore). Refer to your Lab Manual (and BIO A01 webpages) for details for locations and times.** Plastic gloves and other supplies will be provided in the labs as needed. Students should bring pencils, pens, markers, rulers, erasers, and calculators to all labs. **Always check your Lab Manual for any special requirements for each of your labs.**

(C) Statement regarding Use of Turnitin

During the Summer 2013 Semester, we will be using the website “Turnitin.com” for the submission of assignments (e.g. Formal Lab Reports) in BIO A01H3 Y. More information will be provided once all of the details have been worked out. For now, you should be aware of the following policy for the use of Turnitin at the University of Toronto.

“Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site”.

Course Organization

The content in **BIO A01H3 Y** will be delivered through thirty-six 50-minute Biology Lectures (3 lectures within the 150h time slot each week) and five 3- hour labs. Students will be evaluated through lab quizzes and reports, one assignment, one formal lab report, three quiz-tests “quests”, one midterm test and a cumulative final exam.

The students’ understanding of the material covered in each Module will be assessed by a midterm exam using mainly a multiple-choice question format with a few short answer questions. The exams will be scheduled in the final week of June during class time.

The final exam is **cumulative**; *and the final exam will include synthetic questions relating to the Tree of Life and other themes important to all 3 modules.* The final exam will also use a multiple-choice question format with a few short answer questions and will be scheduled in the UTSC Exam Period in August 2013; the details will be announced later and posted on the BIO A01H3 Y Blackboard Course page.

Course Evaluation

The final grade in BIO A01H3 Y will be determined as follows:

Labs 3% of final grade for each Practical

5 Practicals

=15 % of final grade for Practical sessions

4% - Scientific Literature Reading Assignment

6% - Formal Lab Report

= 25% of final grade for Practical Work

Quests (Blackboard Quiz/Tests at the end of each month)	5%	of final grade
Mid-Term Test (Tuesday 25 June)	30 %	of final grade
Final Exam (Modules 1 to 3 + Tree of Life)	40 %	of final grade

Course Content

1. Lecture Topics (*tentative; may change over course*)

Module 1: Cell biology & Metabolism

- Tree of Life – Prokaryotes
- Cells
- Respiration
- Photosynthesis

Module 2: Gene Action and inheritance

- DNA the stuff of heredity
- Peas, Pedigrees and Probability
- Transcription and Translation

Module 3: Evolution

- Population biology
- Microevolution
- Classification, Phylogeny and trees
- Evo – Devo
- Tree of Life: Protists

2. Lab Topics

Lab 1: Field Trip: Appreciating the Diversity of Life

Lab 2: Effect of Light and CO₂ Availability on Photosynthesis and Data Collection for Lab Report

Lab 3: DNA Extraction and Preparation of DNA Samples for PCR

Lab 4: Gel Electrophoresis of PCR Products and Data Analysis

Lab 5: Introduction to Microscopy using Algae

Course Regulations

1. Attendance at Lectures

Attendance at the Lectures is very highly recommended. In order to get maximum benefit from the Lectures in this course, students are advised:

- **to read the relevant sections in your Textbook before the Lecture;** see Lecture Schedule with Textbook references; do not take extensive notes or memorize the material at this stage - just read and become familiar with the terms and concepts to be covered
- **to download any posted LECTURE material** from the BIO A01H3 Y Webpage before each Lecture
- **to come to the Lecture and take your own notes** with the aim of understanding the main concepts covered
- **to re-read the relevant sections in your Textbook** as needed after the Lecture and **create your own study notes; review your notes frequently**
- **to arrange to see the Instructor(s) and/or Bio-Help TAs**, during scheduled Office Hours or by appointment, if you realize that you do not understand the concepts covered in the lectures or the labs.

2. Attendance at Labs

Attendance in the Labs is required in order to get credit for that lab and any work associated with the lab. Most labs will start with a Quiz on the Lab Background Information so **be ON TIME!!** If you arrive at your lab late (within 10 minutes of the scheduled Lab start time), you may write the Quiz in the time remaining. The Lab door will be closed at the end of the Quiz while the TA introduces the lab. **If the door is closed – you are late and will be excluded from Practical!**

If you are more than 10 minutes late for a Lab or if you miss a Lab entirely, you **must discuss your situation(s) with the Course Coordinator**, Dr. Robin Marushia. You will not be allowed to submit Lab Reports/Assignments for Labs that you have not attended **without a valid documentable and verifiable reason**. Any Lab Reports/Assignments allowed to be submitted late must be given to the Lab Coordinator and will be assessed the appropriate late penalty (10% of the value of the work per day); **work will not be accepted if more than 5 days late without permission of the Course Coordinator.**

3. Tests / Exams

If you cannot attend Friday evening or Saturday Tests/Exams for religious reasons, please **notify the Course Coordinator**, Dr. Robin Marushia, **in writing (by email) at least one week before the announced Exam date**; **an alternative time will be presented if approved by the Instructor.**

If you miss a the Midterm Exam, the Course Coordinator, Dr. Robin Marushia, **must be contacted within 72 hours (or 3 days – weekends included!) of the scheduled exam (by email)**. Only students with a valid, documented and verifiable medical reason, or a personal documented excuse (of an extreme nature) will be given any consideration for a Makeup Exam. **Documentation must apply to the date/time of the originally scheduled Test.** (Note: The format of the makeup midterm exam may differ from the original midterm while covering the same content).

Students who miss the Final Exam must contact the Registrar's Office (at http://www.uts.utoronto.ca/~registrar/current_students/deferred_exams) and follow the procedures outlined in order to arrange to write a Deferred Final Exam. The Deferred Final Exam will be scheduled during the August 2012 Exam Period. (Note: The format of the Deferred Final Exam may differ from the original Final Exam while covering the same content).

4. Required Documentation for Missed Term Work (e.g. Assignments /Labs /Tests)

In order to be eligible for consideration for a missed Midterm Exam or to receive credit (whole/partial) for missed Labs (and associated Assignments), students **must** provide a valid documented reason **to the Course Coordinator within 1 week of the missed evaluation.**

For medical reasons, the **attending physician** (who must be registered with the College of Physicians and Surgeons) **must complete** the Standard University of Toronto Medical Certificate. Copies of the standard University of Toronto Medical Certificate are available on the UTSC Registrar's Website:

<http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca/>

The **date/time of the original lab or test that was missed MUST BE CLEARLY INDICATED as well as a clear statement of the medical problem.** Make sure that the Student's Name and UTSC Student Number are clearly indicated.

For other reasons (death in family, car accident/problems, transportation issues), students must provide verifiable documentation as appropriate to the situation and **discuss the situation with the Course Coordinator**, Dr. Robin Marushia, **as soon as possible.** **Students should always get valid and verifiable documentation for any situations that causes them to miss any course marked work in the course.** *NOTE: Reasons such as work, vacation, sleeping-in, other tests/exams and assignments in other courses are NOT ACCEPTABLE reasons for not completing work in BIOA01Y.*

Important University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC) Policies

The University of Toronto Scarborough is dedicated to fostering an academic community in which the learning and scholarship of every member may flourish, with vigilant protection for individual human rights, and a resolute commitment to the principles of equal opportunity, equity and justice.

1. Information on 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 outlines behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing such offences (see <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>) Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

(1) in term-work (e.g. papers, reports 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

(2) on tests and exams:

- using or possessing unauthorized aids
- looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test
- misrepresenting your identity

(3) 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. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your Instructor(s) or from other institutional resources (see <http://www.utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/resourcesfor students.html>).

2. Information Regarding AccessAbility Services at UTSC

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 the Instructors in BIO A01H3 Y and/or the AccessAbility Services Office as soon as possible. BIO A01H3 Y personnel will work with you and AccessAbility Services to ensure you can achieve your learning goals in this Course. The **UTSC AccessAbility Services Office** is located in **Room SW-302**. Qualified staff is available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. Note all enquiries are confidential. You can contact **AccessAbility Services** at 416-287-7560 or ability@utsc.utoronto.ca. The sooner you let us know about your needs, the quicker we can arrange the assistance need in achieving your learning goals in this Course.

3. Information on Religious Observances

It is a policy at UTSC to provide special consideration for recognized holy days, which may be observed by our students. Though not all holy days require students to be absent from school, accommodations may still be necessary in some cases. As a student, it is your responsibility to check the due dates for all course work and scheduled dates for tests/exams on a regular basis. **Inform the Course/Lab Coordinator** of any potential conflicts **at least 7 days prior to the date of the test or due date of the assignment**. Failure to do so may result in special consideration not being granted; documentation may be required.