

BIOB51H3Y: Evolutionary Biology – Syllabus for Summer 2015

Course Description:

Evolutionary biology is the study of the diversity, relationships, and change over time in organisms at all scales of organization (from populations to high taxonomic groups). The theory and principles of evolutionary biology give critical insight into a wide range of fields, including conservation, medicine, pathogenesis, community ecology, and development.

This lecture-based course will give you a firm grounding in modern evolutionary biology. Course material establishes the logic and methods that underlie this field, illustrates these with key historical and modern research studies, and makes clear the importance of links to other areas of life sciences.

Time and Location:

Lectures: Mondays 2-4pm, SW128

Tutorials: Mondays, 4-5pm, SW128 (optional)

Course Instructor: Penelope Gorton <p.gorton@utoronto.ca>

Office hours: Mondays 12-1.45pm, SW563B

Teaching Assistant: Andrew Masson <andrew.masson@mail.utoronto.ca>

Office hours: prior to tests, date/times TBA, SW566

Course Coordinator: Jennifer Campbell <jacampbell@utsc.utoronto.ca>

Office hours: Mon. & Wed 10am-12pm, Tues. & Thurs. 2-4pm, SW421D

Questions:

Please direct all inquiries related to missing midterms, AccessAbility accommodations, and other administration issues to the Course Coordinator (Jennifer). Please direct course content questions first to the discussion board on Blackboard; that way all students can benefit from the answer. Your TA and I will be checking the discussion board regularly and commenting on outstanding questions. Please remember to keep discussions inclusive and civil.

Course Website:

All course materials and communication are via Portal on Blackboard (portal.utoronto.ca). Use your UTORid and password to log in. This should be your first stop if you are looking for answers. It is important to check both the website and your UTMail regularly, for lecture slides, announcements, assignments and due dates.

Learning Objectives:

In this course you will:

1. Develop your understanding of the basic principles of Evolutionary Biology, including links between mechanisms of evolutionary change and patterns of diversity
2. Learn a range of methodologies and approaches for testing predictions arising from hypotheses in different areas of evolutionary biology
3. Gain an appreciation of how evolutionary biology links to all other fields of biology
4. Develop your ability to apply the logic of the scientific method
5. Develop your ability to make inferences from data

Required Text: The required textbook for this course is Evolutionary Analysis (5th edition), by Herron and Freeman. The textbook will be on course reserve at the library. Please see the lecture

schedule for the assigned readings. I will provide page numbers for the 5th edition only; if you buy the 4th edition, please take a look at the 5th edition to get the correct page numbers.

Evaluation and Key Dates:

Assignment	Due Date	Material	% of Final Grade
Quiz 1	Fri. May 15	Lectures 1-2 + readings	2%
Quiz 2	Fri. June 12	Lectures 3-5 + readings	3%
Midterm	Mon. June 22, 2-5pm (tentative)	Lectures 1-6 + readings	35%
Quiz 3	Fri. July 10	Lectures 7-8 + readings	3%
Quiz 4	Fri. July 24	Lectures 9-10 + readings	2%
Final Exam	TBA, in final exam period	2/3 = Lectures 7-11 + readings, 1/3 = cumulative	55%

Quizzes:

There will be four quizzes/problem sets in this course, available on Blackboard. These are intended to help you keep up with the readings and lectures, and are worth a total of 10%. Quizzes are due by 11pm on Portal. There will be no make up opportunities for quizzes.

Tests/Exams:

All material covered in lectures will be included on exams. Specific details of textbook material will not be examinable unless I cover it in lecture, or specifically direct you to it during lecture. Exams will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions.

WebOption:

To facilitate note-taking, all lectures will be available as online WebOption webcasts, linked to the Blackboard homepage. Note that we do not administer the WebOption webcasts, and we do not have copies of the digital files of lectures. Any questions about the WebOption should be directed to the contacts listed on the WebOption homepage (<http://lecturecast.uts.utoronto.ca/>).

If you choose to use WebOption on a regular basis, I suggest you schedule a time to watch the lecture each week. Saving them until the night before the exam is not recommended! Also please remember that it is your responsibility to be aware of announcements made in class, and know all the material covered in lecture (not just the text on the slides).

Missed Midterms:

Should you miss a midterm due to illness or a family crisis, please contact the course coordinator (Jennifer Campbell) within 3 days of the test.

If your absence is due to illness, you must provide a completed UTSC medical certificate (www.uts.utoronto.ca/~registrar/resources/pdf_general/UTSCmedicalcertificate.pdf).

If your absence is the result of a personal or family crisis, you must provide a written statement from your registrar.

If you are unable to attend a midterm for religious reasons, you must notify the course coordinator (Jennifer Campbell) as soon as possible after the date is announced.

Makeups:

There will be a single make-up for the midterm for students with a validated (by Jennifer Campbell) reason for missing it. The date of the make-up will be announced on Blackboard, and it is the SOLE RESPONSIBILITY of the affected student to ensure they know the date of the make-up exam. Students who miss a midterm with no acceptable, documented excuse will receive zero for that midterm. Students who miss a midterm and the make-up and have documented, confirmed excuses for both will have their final scores adjusted so that the marks for the missed midterm go to the final exam.

Students missing the final exam must petition their registrar to write a deferred exam.

AccessAbility

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 AccessAbility Services as soon as possible. AccessAbility Services staff (located in Rm SW302, Science Wing) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. You can contact them by phone (416-287-7560) or email (ability@utsc.utoronto.ca). The sooner you let us know your needs, the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Once your needs are assessed, please make sure you notify Jennifer Campbell of the AccessAbility-determined accommodations that will ensure you are able to reach your academic goals in this course.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is one of the cornerstones of the University of Toronto. It is critically important both to maintain our community, which honours the values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness and responsibility, and to protect you, the students within this community, and the value of the degree towards which you are all working so diligently.

According to Section B of the University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.utoronto.ca/govcncl/pap/policies/behaveac.html>) which all students are expected to know and respect, it is an offence for a student:

- To use someone else's ideas or words in your own work without acknowledging that those ideas/words are not your own with a citation and quotation marks, i.e., to commit plagiarism.
- To obtain or provide unauthorized assistance on any assignment.
- To falsify or alter any documentation required by the University (e.g. doctor's notes).
- To use or possess an unauthorized aid in any test or exam.

There are other offences covered under the Code, but these are the most likely in this course. Please respect these rules and the values that they protect.