

University of Toronto Scarborough
BIOC61: *Community Ecology and Environmental Biology*
Fall 2016

Instructor	Dr. Scott MacIvor scott.macivor@utoronto.ca Office hours: Mondays 1-3pm, SW542 (Email first!)
Lecture	Mondays 3-5pm RM: MW160
Tutorials	Wednesdays 2-5pm RM: MW110
TA	JP Fontenelle jp.fontenelle@mail.utoronto.ca Office hours only by special appointment.

Welcome to Community Ecology!

Community ecology is the ecology of interactions, and foundational in biodiversity science. Community ecology is important to understanding, synthesizing, and applying many universal concepts in ecology. In this course we will examine the principles and main concepts in community ecology and learn about what impacts ecological communities at local and global scales. As a group we will increase our awareness of the communities in which we live and our influence on them.

Course Objectives

1. Describe the processes that affect ecological communities including species interactions and environmental change.
2. Characterize the structure of ecological communities.
3. Describe and predict how human-led impacts affect ecological communities.
4. Develop analytical, writing, and verbal presentation skills.

Schedule

Week	Lecture Date	Lecture Information	Tutorial Date	Tutorial Information
1	Sept 1	Course Introductions Sept 5: Labour Day	Sept 7 *3pm	Tutorial #1: Bibliography
2	Sept 12	Lecture 1: Community Ecology	Sept 14	Tutorial #2: Hike (not-mandatory)
3	Sept 19	Lecture 2: Biodiversity	Sept 21	No tutorial
4	Sept 26	Lecture 3: Competition Assignment 1 Due	Sept 28	Tutorial #3: Raw data and figures
5	Oct 3	Lecture 4: Predation/Mutualism	Oct 5	Midterm Exam Review
6	Oct 10	No Class – Reading Week	Oct 12	No Tutorial – Reading week
7	Oct 17	Midterm	Oct 19	Lecture 5: Ecological Networks
8	Oct 24	Lecture 6: Scale Assignment 2 Due	Oct 26	No tutorial
9	Oct 31	Lecture 7: Functional Traits	Nov 2	Tutorial #4: Species + Traits
10	Nov 7	No Class - Scott Absent	Nov 9	No tutorial
11	Nov 14	Lecture 8: Invasion	Nov 16	Tutorial #5: Presentations and Pecha Kucha
12	Nov 21	Lecture 9: Assembly	Nov 23	Pecha Kucha Presentations 1 Assignment 3 Due
13	Nov 28	Lecture 10: Restoration	Nov 30	Pecha Kucha Presentations 2
14	Dec 5	Exam week begins	-	No Tutorial

Evaluation

Assignment 1	5%
Assignment 2	15%
Assignment 3	20%
Midterm	25%
Final Exam	35%

Announcements, lecture slides, assignments, and grades will be posted to Blackboard. Please check it regularly.

The midterm and final exam will be based on lecture material only. Lecture material is the material delivered during in-class lecture. WebOption is not offered for this course, either as a supplement or as a separate section.

Grading

- **Late assignments:** 10% per day, up to 5 days (*including weekends*), after which they are not accepted.
- Midterm is held during class time on Oct. 17, 2016. A make-up exam is allowed only with a UTSC Health Centre doctor's note. In the event of significant illness or other event which prevents you from taking the midterm, you must inform Dr. MacIvor within **3 days** and provide the UTSC doctor's note (for illness) or other convincing documentation within 1 week. Students with valid reasons for missing the midterm will be given a new make-up exam (NOT the same exam as given to the class) to cover the first portion of the course.
- The final exam is NOT comprehensive, and will test material from the midterm to the end of term. The final exam will be held in the examination period. Anyone absent from the final exam must petition the registrar's office to take a deferred exam.

Classroom Policies

- Please refrain from using your cell phone during class.
- As advanced students, participation and respectful behaviour is expected. Please minimize distractions and give your instructors and fellow students your full attention.
- Some materials will be provided online as lecture notes – these are intended to facilitate note-taking and enable learning during lectures, not to replace attendance to lecture.

Turnitin.com

We will be using Turnitin.com for Assignments. You are expected to submit a digital copy of your assignment to Turnitin.com and a hard copy to be marked by your TA. The following statement is included for your information as per University policy:

“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.”

Academic Honesty Policy

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. 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 Dr. MacIvor or from other institutional resources (see <http://www.utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/>).

AccessAbility Statement

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 SW302) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations (416) 287-7560 or ability@utsc.utoronto.ca.