

BIO B51: Evolutionary Biology

Course Personnel	Role	Contact	Office hours
Emily MacLeod PhD	Instructor (course content)	Send email to instructor via Blackboard	Location AC254 Tues. 11:00am - noon Wednesday 11:00-noon ONLINE only (Blackboard): Friday 1pm -2pm
Kelly Barnes	Course Coordinator (course administration)	416-287-7404 kbarnes@utsc.utoronto.ca	SW421-D MWF 10-12 TTH: 2-4
Luciana Baruffaldi	Teaching Assistants (marking)	Send email to TA's via Blackboard	--
Sheena Fry Paola Pulido- Santacruz			

Lectures: ARC 223 Tuesday & Thurs 10am - 11am

COURSE OVERVIEW

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.

COURSE HOMEPAGE: Available on Blackboard, you can logon via the University Portal (portal.utoronto.ca) using your UTORid and password. In addition to the course syllabus and policy sheet, lecture slides, handouts, practice problems, and my blog which will include a FAQ, here you can access 'virtual office hours' and select your grading scheme.

The Blackboard homepage should be your FIRST stop for information about the course!

COURSE CONTENT QUESTIONS:

Questions regarding lecture content, practice problems, exam content and other aspects of the material in this course should be directed to *Prof. MacLeod*.

If you have a question the **BEST** ways to contact Prof MacLeod are (in order of speed of response):

1. In-person during office hours or immediately after lecture.
2. in Virtual Office hours. I will be online for live help from 1pm to 2pm on Fridays. Select 'Virtual Office Hours' from the main menu on Blackboard.
3. by email sent via the Blackboard homepage.

NOTE: email to my personal address or to the personal addresses of the instructor or TA's will NOT be answered.

COURSE ADMINISTRATION QUESTIONS:

Questions regarding course organization, exam planning, and issues pertaining to special accommodation (AccessAbility, missed exams, illness, religious accommodation, legal issues etc.) are normally to be directed to the Course Coordinator, **Kelly Barnes**.

COURSE MATERIALS

Text: S Freeman & JC Herron. Evolutionary Analysis, 5th Edition. 2007. Pearson/Benjamin Cummings. ISBN-10: 0-321-61667-7. ISBN-13: 978-0-321-61667-8

Lecture slides: All lecture slides will be posted on the Blackboard homepage (see: 'Course materials') as pdf handouts on the evening prior to the lecture.

Taking notes is ESSENTIAL to success in this course. Do NOT just depend on my lecture slides!

Examinable videos. Videos that compliment the lecture material will be made available on the WebOption link and on course reserve in the library. I will post study-sheets containing questions that highlight the examinable material from these videos. Answers will be posted, but you are **strongly** advised to fill in the sheets yourself before viewing the answer key.

Readings: Textbook sections that should be read in support of lecture material are outlined on the course schedule. You should ensure that you UNDERSTAND everything you read and can follow the examples given. I recommend you do the readings as this is the best way to ensure you understand the material.

WebOption/WebSection: 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.utsc.utoronto.ca/>).

Attendance at lectures: Attendance at lectures is optional. However, it is critical that you understand the material as presented in lectures, and only you can determine the best way to reach this goal. If you learn best in a live lecture, then be sure to attend the lectures in person! If you learn best at midnight while eating a bag of chips, then feel free to use the WebOption lectures to ensure your success.

Office hours: Feel free to use the library study room office hours (Tuesday @ 11am, and Wednesday @ 11pm) as a study group. This is a great chance to get help, discuss the material, or just think about questions other students are asking.

Whether you attend lectures or not, make time for office hours if you need help!

Announcements: Even if you choose to watch the lectures online, it is YOUR responsibility to be aware of announcements made in class. These will be posted on Blackboard. Be sure to CHECK the homepage each week to read the announcements.

Practice Problems: 3 problem sets will be posted on Blackboard during the term. Use them to test your understanding of concepts/equations prior to the midterm & final exam. Answers will be posted in the week after the questions are made available. *There are no marks associated with these problem sets.* Another source of useful practice questions/problems is the companion website associated with your textbook. See Blackboard link.

EVALUATION

Marking Scheme

Item	Value
Midterm test	40%
Final exam	60%

Midterms & Final Exam:

The midterms and final exam will focus on material covered in lecture and videos and material from the text to which I have specifically directed you during the lecture. Exam questions will focus on your understanding as well as straight recall of examples—the best way to study for these types of questions is to read and think about the examples in the text, and to do the practice problems. The midterm will include multiple choice and one or two short-answer questions, and may also include fill-in the blank or matching questions. The final will be entirely multiple choice and matching questions.

The midterm will cover lecture topics and videos as outlined on the syllabus. The final exam is comprehensive and will cover material from the entire course, although material that has already been examined in the midterms will be covered in less detail. Roughly 2/3 of the final will be like a third midterm on material not previously tested and 1/3 will be an inclusive exam with questions that span the course.

For exams, concentrate on learning material presented in lectures & videos, know how to apply concepts to new data, and use your textbook reading as support for this goal.

Details of textbook material will NOT be examinable unless I cover it in lecture, or specifically direct you to it during lecture.

To succeed in this course, you should KNOW the lecture & video material and be sure you UNDERSTAND the readings.

COURSE ADMINISTRATION

Missed Exams

There will be a single make-up for the midterm. Students who will be unable to attend the midterm for religious reasons must notify the Course coordinator (Kelly Barnes) as soon as possible after the date is announced. Students who are unable to attend the midterm due to illness must notify the course coordinator or Prof MacLeod (by email) within 3 working days of the test and arrange to present a completed UTSC medical certificate (available via the registrar's website) which confirms their illness, and medical attention, at the time of the exam. Medical certificates will be verified. The date of the make-up exam 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 the final must petition the Registrar to write a deferred exam.

Accessibility:

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 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, ensure you notify Kelly Barnes of the AccessAbility-determined accommodations that will ensure you are able to reach your academic goals in this course.

Academic Integrity:

As a University of Toronto student, you are expected to demonstrate honest and ethical behaviour with respect to all academic matters. For more information, please see Student Code of Conduct, www.utsc.utoronto.ca/courses/calendar/Code_of_Student_Conduct.html

This is important when interacting with not only your course instructor and teaching assistants, but also your fellow classmates. Any conduct deemed dishonest, unethical or harmful to others in any way may be considered grounds for immediate removal from the course. For details on the University's policy on plagiarism, see www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~t1sweb/instruction/plagiarism.htm.

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 (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. 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 your instructor or from other institutional resources (see <http://www.utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/resourcesforstudents.html>).