

BIO B51: Evolutionary Biology

Course Personnel	Role	Contact	Office hours
Professor Andrade	Instructor (course content)	Send email to instructor via Blackboard	AC254: (Library study room) Tues. 11:00am - noon Fri 2:00 - 3:00pm ONLINE only (Blackboard): Friday 1pm -2pm
Angela Jiang	Course Coordinator (course administration)	416-287-7404 xijia.jiang@utoronto.ca	SW421-D MWF 10-12 T/Th 2-4
Luciana Baruffaldi <hr/> Sheena Fry	Teaching Assistants (marking)	Send email to TA's via Blackboard	--

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

Tutorials: ARC 223 Thurs 5pm - 7pm (see schedule for dates)

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. Andrade**.

If you have a question the **BEST** ways to contact Prof Andrade 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. Warning: I am notoriously slow with email.
- NOTE: email to 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, **Angela Jiang**.

COURSE MATERIALS

Text: S Freeman & JC Herron. Evolutionary Analysis, 4th Edition. 2007. Pearson/Benjamin Cummings. ISBN-10: 0132275848. ISBN-13: 978-0132275842

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: 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.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 Friday @ 2pm) 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

Two marking schemes are possible (see below). You must choose ONE of these by **Tuesday 25 September**. Make your selection on Blackboard by midnight on 25 Sept(see ‘Course Materials’: ‘Marking Scheme Selection’).

I provide this option so you can play to your strengths.
Pick the scheme likely to result in the highest grade given your academic skills!

Once you commit to a marking scheme, you CANNOT change it.
If you do not make a selection on Blackboard by Tues 25 September, you will be assigned marking scheme A.

Marking Scheme A (default)

Item	Value
Midterm test	40%
Final exam	60%

Marking Scheme B (optional)

Item	Value
Midterm test	35%
Writing assignment	10%
Final exam	55%

Midterms & Final Exam:

The Midterm will be held from 5pm to 7pm on Thursday October 25.

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.

Writing Assignment (Optional, for those who select Marking Scheme B only)

Critical-thinking exam question & answer key.

Goal: Design a single long-answer question, with full answer key, that would be appropriate on a midterm or final exam for this course (i.e., worth about 15- 20 marks), and tests more than simple recall of material. This assignment will be **completed in groups of 3-4 and is due by 10am on 1 Nov.** You may select your own group, but you will be assigned a topic. Late assignments lose 5% per day. No extensions will be granted. For more details, see detailed outline of assignment on Blackboard.

If you select Marking Scheme B, plan to attend Tutorial 1 (27 Sept) as group registration will be conducted in the first 30min of that tutorial, and details given about the assignment.

Plagiarism

Normally, students will be required to submit their assignment 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. The assignment in this course must be submitted as a single hard copy at the start of lecture as well as via the Turnitin.com website in digital format (a single file per group). Procedures for submitting to Turnitin.com will be provided when your paper is assigned. If you are not sure what constitutes plagiarism, see:

www.utoronto.ca/academicintegrity or www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources
or talk to Prof Andrade or one of the TA's.

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 (Angela Jiang) 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 Andrade (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. Students who contract a flu-like illness and are advised by University of Toronto policy (see www.preparedness.utoronto.ca/pandemic.htm) to avoid attendance must still contact Angela Jiang to notify us of their illness. 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 the Angela Jiang of the AccessAbility-determined accommodations that will ensure you are able to reach your academic goals in this course.