

BIOB52H3F 2012

Laboratory in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

OBJECTIVES:

- Explore selected concepts in ecology and evolutionary biology
- Develop a variety of lab skills and techniques
- Experience field techniques and develop an appreciation for fieldwork
- Use computers for ecological and evolutionary analysis
- Improve your scientific reading and writing skills
- Improve your literature search skills
- Improve your ability to think critically, about both data and experiments

CALENDAR DETAILS:

- Prerequisite: BIOA01H & BIOA02H
- Corequisite: BIOB51H (Evolutionary Biology)

SCHEDULE:

- One four hour laboratory per week (S321) on Wednesdays: either 9am-1pm or 1pm-5pm). Some labs will be held in the Bladen computer labs in rooms to be announced.
- A one hour lecture each week (HW215)
- Intranet: You are responsible for checking the intranet information for this course frequently. Labs for the following week will be downloadable from the intranet. Also, please check intranet the evening before labs and lectures for last minute information and updates.
- Email: see below
- Office hours: see below

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

Your B52 team:

- Lecturer: Megan McCusker
- TA: Maya Sonnenschein Faccio
- TA: Alfredo Barrera
- Lab Techs: Chris Armstrong (Joanne Pearce)

EMAIL POLICY:

- Please email the course lecturer or TAs directly
- Please use email sparingly, if you have a problem please see us during our office hours
- Before emailing, please check the intranet information for B52. We may have already answered your question there.
- When you email, include a subject line that summarizes your question.

OFFICE HOURS:

- We can be reached in person during our office hours, or at alternate times by request (via email)
- Maya Sonnenschein Faccio
Office: TBA
Office hours: TBA
- Alfredo Barrera
Office: TBA
Office hours: TBA
- Megan McCusker
Office: S552
Office hours: Tuesdays 12:00-1:00 or by appointment
Email: mmccusker@utsc.utoronto.ca

TEXT & READINGS

- Lab materials will be posted on the intranet for download. Lab materials will be available approximately one week before the relevant lab. Some lab materials will also include short pdfs of primary literature. You are responsible for reading all provided material before lab (see below).
- You are required to read lab material BEFORE coming to each laboratory. Some labs will start with a pre-lab quiz. These will count towards your final grade (see EVALUATION below)
- Lecture slides (pdf format) will also be posted on the intranet a few days before each lecture. This is meant to reduce the burden of writing during class, but it will not necessarily cover everything said or presented in class.
- Some labs also require research and readings from the scientific literature. These readings will be described in the lab handouts/manual.

EVALUATION

This is a laboratory course, so there are no mid-terms and no final exam. Instead, evaluation will be via:

Lab quizzes: These are given to assess whether you are fully prepared for the lab, and have understood the material. The material consists of (1) lecture material (usually provided in the lecture the day before the lab, but may include material from previous lectures), (2) the instructions/description of the lab (from the intranet), (3) any associated material for the lab, such as pdfs of literature from the intranet, and (4) your experience carrying out the lab. Quizzes will sometimes be given at the **start** of the lab in question, and sometimes at the **end** of the lab in question. You will not know when quizzes are scheduled, but we will try to avoid giving quizzes on days when lab write-ups are due. **If you miss the quiz, you miss the quiz** (i.e., “traffic was terrible- there was an accident on the 401”, “my bus didn’t show up on time”, “I had to leave early to attend a special student event”, are not valid excuses).

Labs write-ups: These will involve the presentation and analysis of data from the lab, and responses to questions posed in the lab handout. **These are due at the start of the indicated lab.** You will usually have about 2 weeks to complete the write-up.

Participation: We want you to participate fully in lab exercises. This mark will be based on your attendance, preparation, and participation. If you miss a lab without a valid medical note, your participation mark will be significantly reduced.

Marks will be assigned as follows:

	Number	Value for each	Percent of total
Quizzes	4	5%	20%
1st write-up			10%
2nd write-up			10%
3rd write-up			15%
4th write-up			20%
5th write-up			20%
Participation			5%

Late Reports:

Handing in reports after the deadline (the start of the indicated lab) will result in a deduction of –20%/day. No exceptions.

Plagiarism:

NOTE: You may collaborate in evaluating the results of the labs. HOWEVER, the writing of all turned in material MUST be your own. Thus, you may not copy from anyone’s report (or from any other source) for this year or for any other year. Plagiarism will be dealt with under the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (consult the Calendar).