

BIOB52H3F 2014

Laboratory in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

OBJECTIVES:

- Explore various topics in ecology and evolutionary biology
- Develop field and laboratory skills
- Develop understanding of experimental design
- Improve critical thinking skills
- Develop understanding of statistical tests and appropriate inference
- Improve literature search skills
- Improve scientific reading and writing skills, including how to create effective figures and tables

CALENDAR DETAILS:

- Prerequisite: BIOA01H & BIOA02H

SCHEDULE:

- One four hour laboratory per week (SW321) on Wednesdays: either 9am-1pm or 1pm-5pm). Some labs will be held in the Bladen computer labs (BV-466, see lab schedule).
- A one hour lecture each week (HW215)
- Blackboard: You are responsible for checking blackboard for this course frequently. Labs for the following week will be downloadable from blackboard. Also, please check blackboard the evening before labs and lectures for last minute information and updates.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

Your B52 team:

- Lecturer: Megan McCusker
- TA: Charmaine Condy (9-1pm)
- TA: Maya Sonnenschein Faccio (1-5pm)
- Lab Technicians: Joanne Pearce, Chris Armstrong

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 blackboard 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)
- Charmaine Condy
Office: SW551
Office hours: Tuesdays 1-2pm
Email: charmaine.condy@mail.utoronto.ca
- Maya Sonnenschein Faccio
Office: TBA
Office hours: TBA
Email: maya.sonnen@gmail.com
- Megan McCusker
Office: SW552
Office hours: Tuesdays 1:00-2:00 or by appointment
Email: mmccusker@utsc.utoronto.ca

TEXT & READINGS

- There is no textbook for this course. I will post lab hand-outs on Blackboard for you to download and print.
- Lab materials will be posted on the Friday before the relevant lab. Some weeks, I will also include short pdfs of primary literature that you should read BEFORE coming to each laboratory.
- Lecture slides (pdf format) will also be posted on blackboard a few days before each lecture. These are intended to reduce the burden of writing during class. They are not intended as a replacement for coming to class. The lecture slides 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.

Plagiarism:

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

EVALUATION

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

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 have at least 2 weeks to complete the write-up (see lab schedule). (Total: 70%)

Quizzes: These are given to assess whether you have understood the material covered in lecture and in lab. The material may consist of (1) lecture material, (2) the instructions/description of the lab, (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, sometimes at the **end** of the lab in question, and sometimes during the lecture period (see B52 Schedule). **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). You will have four quizzes and each one will be worth 5% of your mark. (Total 20%)

Lab presentation: You will have a group presentation on the final week of lab. This will count for 5% of your final grade. (Total: 5%)

Participation: We want you to participate fully during lecture and during lab exercises. You will receive a laboratory participation mark. This mark will be based on your attendance, preparation, and participation in lab. Laboratory participation will count for 5% of your final mark. If you miss a lab without a valid medical note, your participation mark will be significantly reduced. (Total 5%)

Marks will be assigned as follows:

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

Late Reports:

Handing in reports after the deadline (the start of the indicated lab) will result in a deduction of 10%/day. No exceptions.