

BIOB52H3F 2019

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 an appreciation for fieldwork
- Use computers for ecological and evolutionary analysis
- Improve your literature search and reading skills
- Improve your scientific writing skills
- Improve your ability to think critically, about both data and experiments

CALENDAR DETAILS:

- Prerequisite: BIOA01H3 & BIOA02H3
- Corequisite: BIOB50H3 or BIOB51H3

SCHEDULE:

- A one hour lecture per week (MW 120), Tuesday 11-12.
- One four hour laboratory every week (SW321 on Wednesdays; either 9am-1pm or 1pm-5pm).

QUERCUS:

- You are responsible for checking the Quercus page for this course frequently. Labs for the following week will be downloadable from Quercus. Also, please check Quercus the evening before labs and lectures for any last minute information and updates.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

Your B52 team,

- Professor: Nathan Lovejoy
- TA: Katherine Balasingham
- TA: JP Fontenelle
- Lab Master: Joanne Pearce

EMAIL POLICY:

- Before emailing, please check the Quercus page for the course. We may have already answered your question there.
- For lab related questions, please start by emailing your TA.
- For other matters, please email the instructor.
- When you email, include a subject line that includes “BIOB52” and that summarizes your question.
- We will attempt to reply to your emails within 2/3 days.

CONTACT INFORMATION AND OFFICE HOURS:

- We can be reached in person during our office hours, or at alternate times by request (via email)
- Katherine Balasingham
Office: SW552
Office hours: Thursday 1-2pm
Email: katherine.balasingham@mail.utoronto.ca
- JP Fontenelle
Office: SW552
Office hours: Wednesdays 2-3pm
Email: jp.fontenelle@mail.utoronto.ca
- Nathan Lovejoy
Office: SW552
Office hours: TBA
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READINGS & LAB PREPARATION

- There is no text specifically for this course. Lab materials will be posted on Quercus for download. Lab materials will be available approximately one week before the relevant lab. Some lab materials will also include pdfs of primary literature, or references to primary literature.
- Please bring your lab coat and eye protection to all labs. For outdoor labs, prepare appropriately (umbrella, raincoat, boots if raining; hat, sunglasses, sunscreen if sunny)
- You are responsible for attending lecture and for reading all provided material before lab. Some labs will start with a pre-lab quiz. These will count towards your final grade (see EVALUATION below)

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 may consist of: (1) lecture material (usually provided in the lecture the day before the lab), (2) the instructions/description of the lab, (3) other associated readings for the lab, such as primary scientific literature, 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). 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).

Short assignments:

These are short written assignments (4 to 5 pages in length) that will be based on lab material. Each of the assignments will differ, but they will typically involve questions regarding lab material. They are typically due one week after the lab in question.

Lab write-ups:

These are written assignments that involve the presentation and analysis of data from the lab, in greater depth than the short assignments. These assignments typically take the form of a typical lab report, with introduction, methods, results, and discussion. These will be approximately 10+ pages in length. They are typically due two weeks after the lab in question.

Marks will be assigned as follows:

	Number	Value for each	Percent of total
Quizzes	4	2.5%	10%
Short assignments	3	10%	30%
Lab write-ups	3	20%	60%

Late Reports:

Handing in written material after the deadline (the start of the indicated lab, unless otherwise noted) will result in a deduction of 10% of the value of the assignment per day.

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).

Note on medical absences:

The Department of Biological Sciences is participating in a pilot program in "Self-Declaration" of illness. See here for details: <https://www.utoronto.ca/biosci/missed-term-work-policy>