

BIOC65: ENVIRONMENTAL TOXICOLOGY (2015)
Fall Term (Prof. Herbert J. Kronzucker)

Professor: Herbert J. Kronzucker, Distinguished Professor, Department of Biological Sciences

Professor's Office Hours: Tuesdays after lecture, 4-5 p.m. (office SY264)

Teaching Assistant: Devrim Coskun, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Cell & Systems Biology; office hours as announced in class (devrim.coskun@mail.utoronto.ca; lab desk: SY270)

E-mail contact: contact our TA for all technical/organizational questions, questions pertaining to presentations, and for simple questions relating to course material, at the e-mail address indicated above; for more sophisticated questions, it is best to book office hour time with the TA, or attend the professor's office hours

Lecture times: Tuesdays 2-4 p.m. (HW214)

Tutorials: Wednesdays 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (HW215); tutorial attendance is mandatory.

If a student cannot make lecture or tutorial times regularly, it is recommended that the course not be taken!

The course is not available as an internet option!

Synopsis: BGYC65 provides an introduction to the science of environmental toxicology. The course covers the history of pollution, major pollutants of current interest, basic chemical mechanisms of toxicity, physiological responses to toxicants in biological organisms, standard means of assaying toxicants in the environment and of quantifying toxicity in organisms, and effects of toxicants on the structure and function of ecosystems. Special emphasis is placed on disease development in the human body in relation to environmental pollutants.

Textbook: A variety of texts may be used, but no specific text is assigned. The professor will introduce several texts in class. Independent study is fostered in this course!

Evaluation: Lecture information will be tested in the form of true-false, multiple-choice, and short-answer questions. Some information from tutorials may also be tested. The marks breakdown is as follows: One midterm exam (30%), one tutorial presentation (15%), and one final exam (55%). The final exam is cumulative, i.e. it covers the material of the entire course. The tutorial assignment is a 10-min presentation for each student (not a group presentation). Suggestions for topics will be provided by the TA, but toxicology encompasses a variety of fields of study, and students are encouraged to be creative in their choice of topic. To maximize the learning experience, we will seek to avoid multiple coverage of the same topic, unless a topic is presented from a very

different angle. A 5-min discussion will follow each presentation (or will be held following all presentations of the day), in which all students are expected to participate.

Test Policy: There will be **no make-up test for the midterm exam**. Students who miss the midterm for medical reasons must present a medical certificate within two days of the test date to confirm inability to attend the test. The certificate must show that the physician was consulted at the time of the illness. Medical certificates will be verified. Other (e.g. legal) certificates are handled in the same manner. In case the midterm exam is missed for legitimate reasons, the final exam will be graded out of 85%; alternatively, students have the option of an oral midterm examination with the professor (oral exams are at the professor's discretion and cover the same material as the written exam). Students who miss the final exam, held in the Faculty examination period, must petition to the Faculty of Arts and Science; in cases where such a petition is successful, as with the midterm, an oral exam may be offered by the professor and TA in lieu of the written examination.