

University of Toronto Scarborough – Department of Biological Sciences
BIOD27 – Vertebrate Endocrinology – Fall 2020

Course Instructor: **Dr. Jason Brown**
Email: nysuloem.brown@utoronto.ca
Office Hours:
By appointment only:
<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/UniversityofTorontoScarborough2@utoronto.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/>
**NOTE: You must book your appointment at least 6 hours in advance; appointments are 15 minutes

Course Coordinator: **Jennifer Campbell**
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Teaching Assistant: **Shehab Eid**
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Course Description: A lecture/discussion class on the structure and function of the major endocrine organs of vertebrates. The course provides knowledge of endocrine systems encompassing hormone biosynthesis, secretion, metabolism, feedback, physiological actions, and pathophysiology. Recent advances in hormone research as well as contemporary issues in endocrinology will be examined.

Prerequisites: BIOB34H3 or BIOC32H3

Recommended Preparation: BIOC34H3

Lectures: *There will be no live lectures in this course.* Approximately three lecture hours will be pre-recorded each week and made available through Quercus in .mp4 format. Lecture notes (in PowerPoint format) will be made available at the same time.

Tentative Lecture Topics:

- 1 – Fundamental Principles of Endocrinology
- 2 – Hypothalamus-Pituitary Axis
- 3 – Thyroid Gland
- 4 – Adrenal Cortex
- 5 – Adrenal Medulla
- 6 – Sexual Development
- 7 – Male & Female Gonads
- 8 – Regulation of Energy Balance

Debates: Beginning Friday, October 9th, *live debates* will take place via Blackboard Collaborate on Fridays from 10-10:30am and 11-11:30am. *For these debates, students are strongly encouraged to have a microphone and a webcam.*

Textbook: There is no textbook for this course. Only content covered in lecture will be subject to examination. References for any studies discussed in class will appear on the lecture slides so that, if desired, students can read these studies further on their own time. This is not required, however.

Evaluation:

Term Tests	35%	(25% best; 10% worst)
Debate Evaluations	10%	
Debates	up to 40%*	(let x = actual debate marks earned)
Final Exam	(55 - x)%	

* Each debate is worth 10 points. If a team wins a debate unanimously, then they will receive all 10 points; the losing team will receive 0 points. If a team wins a debate in a split decision, then they will receive 7 points; the losing team will receive 3 points.

Important Notes Regarding Evaluations:

Term Tests

There are two Term Tests in this course, **which will be held online via Quercus**. The dates and times of the Term Tests will be determined by the Registrar's Office during the first few weeks of the semester, and I will post this information on Quercus as soon as it is available.

Term Tests may cover any material covered in this course, but the lectures emphasized on each Term Test will be announced on Quercus. Term Tests will be 2 hours and will comprise of short answer questions only. Students will be evaluated based on the reasonableness, clarity, and conciseness of their written answers to the questions. Students will have some choice with regards to which questions they answer (e.g., answer 1 of 2 short answer questions). **The Term Test questions will require students to think critically and creatively about the lecture content as students will be expected to explain novel observations and solve problems. This reflects my belief that undergraduate students need to develop not only their scientific knowledge but, more importantly, their competency for thinking, reasoning, and scientific inquiry. Some questions will require that students utilize knowledge gained from other biology courses, which reflects that, as senior biology students, you should be capable of synthesizing concepts from various biological disciplines.**

To help students prepare for the Term Tests, optional quizzes (here optional means not worth any marks) will be posted on Quercus each week. *Students are strongly encouraged to discuss these quizzes with the course instructor when they encounter any difficulties, either by email or during office hours.*

If you know in advance that you cannot write a Term Test at the scheduled time because it conflicts with some other valid activity, please notify the course instructor as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made for you to write the Term Test at an alternative time. *Any such alternative time must be before the scheduled date of the Term Test.*

If you miss a Term Test due to medical illness, then you must submit a Self-Declaration of Student Illness Form, which is available at the following link:

<https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/biosci/sites/utsc.utoronto.ca/biosci/files/u26/Self%20Declaration%20of%20Student%20Illness%20Fall%202018.pdf>

This form must be submitted to the course coordinator via email **within three days** after the Term Test has taken place.

If you miss a Term Test for any other valid reason, please consult with the course instructor as soon as possible. The course instructor will determine whether the reason given for a missed Term Test is valid in accordance with university policies. Also, the course instructor may ask for any documentation required to verify the reason given.

Students who miss one Term Test for a valid reason (medical or otherwise) will not be permitted to write a make-up Term Test; rather, the weight of their Final Exam will be increased by 10%. (The weight of their remaining Term Test will be 25%).

Students who miss both Term Tests for valid reasons will not be permitted to write make-up Term Tests; rather, the weight of their Final Exam will be increased by 35%.

Students who miss a Term Test for any invalid reason will receive a grade of zero for that Term Test.

Debates

On Tuesday, September 22nd, students will be randomly assigned to debate teams consisting of 5 members. Students will remain on the same debate team throughout the entire semester.

You should be able to see and contact your group members by going to q.utoronto.ca/groups and clicking on “Debate Team x”. Use the “Discussions” tab to make initial contact with your group members. By Friday, September 25th, each debate team should submit a team name to the course instructor via email; endocrinology-related team names are preferred.

Each debate team will participate in four, 30-minute debates throughout the semester. These debates will be held via Blackboard Collaborate on Fridays (beginning Oct. 9th) from 10-10:30am and 11-11:30am. A debate schedule will be posted on Quercus no later than Monday, September 28th. The debate schedule will indicate, for each debate, the resolution and the position (government vs. opposition) that each team will take.

The format of each debate will be loosely based on the “Parliamentary Debate” model. A guide to the “Parliamentary Debate” model (modified to be suitable for this course) will be provided via Quercus, and students are expected to consult this guide to ensure they know the debate structure and rules prior to participating in any debates.

For a debate to commence, each debate team must have at least three members present (because, as outlined in the guide, only three members from each team will be permitted to speak in a given debate; the non-speaking members may contribute to the debate by taking notes, crafting rebuttals,

etc.). In the event that a debate team has fewer than three members present at the start of their assigned debate, the team will be credited with a unanimous debate loss. The course instructor will then substitute for the debate team and the debate will proceed.

In the event that one member of a debate team fails to show up at the start of their assigned debate, the members of the team in attendance can decide whether to proceed or not. If they choose to proceed, and win, they can decide whether to extend credit for the win to the absent member or not. (E.g., if a team member contributed to debate preparation but was sick on the day of the debate, the team may decide that the member still merits credit for the win.) If they choose not to proceed, the team will be credited with an unanimous loss and the course instructor will substitute for the debate team, and the debate will proceed.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The debates in this course will be subject to the University of Toronto's "Statement on Freedom of Speech" (which has been posted on Quercus). Students are expected to read this statement before participating in any debates in this course.

Debate Evaluation

Each debate will be judged, *independently*, by two other debate teams (called "judging teams" for this purpose) and the course instructor, who will be tasked with deciding which team has won the debate. Each judging team, and the course instructor, must choose a winner; draws (ties) are not a permissible outcome. The judging teams and course instructor must submit their decision in writing via Quercus within one week of the completion of the debate. The written decision should be no longer than 500 words and should outline the judging team's or course instructor's justification for their decision.

The teaching assistant will review each of the decisions after they have been submitted. He will decide whether the justification for each decision is sufficiently thorough (i.e., the judging team or course instructor has clearly outlined the rationale for their decision). If not, the teaching assistant will notify the judging team or course instructor that their decision is unacceptable in its current form and needs revision. In this case, the judging team or course instructor will have 48 hours to submit a revised decision.

Upon receiving all acceptable decisions from the judging teams and course instructor, the teaching assistant will determine who won the debate, and whether it was an unanimous or split decision. He will then post the results (including the written decisions) on Quercus.

At least three members of the judging team must be present throughout the debate (i.e., from start to finish) in order for the judging team to serve its role. In the event that a judging team fails to maintain this quorum at any point throughout the debate, or in the event that a judging team fails to submit its original written decision within one week of the debate, or in the event that a judging team fails to resubmit its revised written decision with 48 hours of notification of the refusal of their original written decision, the judging team will be considered to have not judged the debate. (In the event that one of the judging teams fails to fulfil its duty, and, if by consequence, there is a split decision on the debate, the teaching assistant will cast the deciding vote, though he will not be required to submit a written decision. Similarly, in the event that one of the debate teams is unable to debate, and, therefore, the course instructor has been called upon to debate, any split

decision will be decided by the teaching assistant, who will not be required to provide a written decision.)

Each judging team will be assigned to four debates, which will be clearly indicated in the debate schedule. In order for a judging team to receive the full marks allotted for debate evaluation, they must successfully judge all their assigned debates. ("Successfully judge" means that they were present, as outlined above, and their written decisions were deemed acceptable by the teaching assistant, whether initially or following revision, within the allotted time.) If a judging team does not successfully judge all their assigned debates, they will 0% for debate evaluations.

If any members of the judging team are absent during their assigned debate, the members of the team in attendance can decide whether to extend credit for the judging to the absent members or not. (E.g., if a team member is absent during the debate, but helps with editing the written decision, the team members may decide that the member still merits credit for their contribution.)

Final Exam

The Final Exam will be scheduled by the Registrar's office (December 10-22 [including Sundays]) and will be worth between 15-55% of the final grade, depending on the performance of the individual's debate team (unless, for reasons stated above, it has a higher weight). It will be 3 hours and will cover all course material, though it will place emphasis on the material discussed since the last Term Test. It will have the same format as the Term Tests.

Accessibility Needs:

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 me and/or the AccessAbility Services Office as soon as possible. I will work with you and AccessAbility Services to ensure you can achieve your learning goals in this course. Enquiries are confidential. The UTSC AccessAbility Services staff (located in S302) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations (416) 287-7560 or ability@utsc.utoronto.ca.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The University of Toronto's *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

- In papers and assignments:*
- using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement
 - submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor
 - making up sources or facts
 - obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment.
- On tests and exams:*
- using or possessing unauthorized aids;
 - looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test
 - misrepresenting your identity
- In academic work:*
- falsifying institutional documents or grades
 - falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. There are other offences covered under the Code, but these are the most common. ***Please respect these rules and the values that they protect.***

Copyright in Instructional Settings:

If a student wishes to audio-record, photograph, video-record, or otherwise reproduce lecture presentations, course notes, or other similar materials provided by instructors, he or she must obtain the instructor's written consent beforehand. Otherwise, all such reproduction is an

infringement of copyright and is absolutely prohibited. In the case of private use by students with disabilities, the instructor's consent will not be unreasonably withheld.