

**BIOD66: Causes and Consequences of Diversity
Winter 2017**

Course information

Lecture times:

Thursdays 9-12am

Location:

BV 363

Textbook:

Phylogenies in Ecology -Cadotte & Davies, Princeton University Press

Exams:

Midterm & Final

Project:

Presentation and paper

Professor:

Marc Cadotte

Office: Science Wing 542

Office hours: By appointment or with TA

Email: mcadotte@utsc.utoronto.ca (please put BIOD66 in the subject line)

Phone: 416-208-5105

Teaching Assistants:

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Course description

This course will combine lecture and projects to explore the evolutionary and ecological processes that generate patterns of biological diversity as well as how species interactions and ecosystem function are affected by diversity. Of key interest will be how invasions, climate change, and habitat destruction affects diversity and function.

Course Resources

Course Website and Online Lectures: Lecture notes (PDF copies of the powerpoint slides) will be posted on Blackboard by noon the day before the lecture. You should familiarize yourself with Blackboard and its contents, as check it regularly.

How to Get Help with the Course. First, check this syllabus; you will find the answer to almost all procedural questions here. If you have a question that cannot be answered by this syllabus, check the course website, which will be consistently updated with answers to many conceptual and procedural questions. If this does not answer your question, then decide if the question is conceptual or procedural.

Conceptual questions are best answered by the TA or the professor's office hours. If you have other questions, feel free to email either TA or the professor. The professor will return your email in a reasonably timely fashion Monday through Friday.

Course Requirements/Marking

Midterm exam (20): Short answer and multiple choice exam will cover concepts from first half of course.

Small R project (15): All students will analyse diversity measures on a set of communities.

Presentation (15): All students will present (5 min) their final paper during the last class.

Paper (15): All students will complete a final paper (Due last day of class).

Final exam (35): The long and short-answer exam will cover all material from the course.

Accessibility

Everyone is a welcome member of this class, and we strive to provide an equal playing field for students with diverse learning styles and needs. Please contact the AccessAbility office as soon as possible if you need any form of accommodation. They will provide confidential services that include flexible, personalized solutions for test-taking, note-taking, and the like. The AccessAbility office is located in SW302 and can be emailed at: ability@utsc.utoronto.ca

Academic Integrity

The learning environment is built on mutual trust, and we will assume that all students operate with honesty and integrity. However, in the rare cases of substantial evidence that the University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (Section B; <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>) has been compromised, then I will enact the procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. First, I will invite you to discuss the possible offence through an email invitation. If our discussion leads me to believe that you have not compromised the code, then the matter will be dropped. If either you fail to respond to two requests for this discussion or new evidence comes to light, then a formal investigation will be initiated.