

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE TITLE:	BIOL 121 The Diversity of Life	TERM:	T1 2013/2014
COURSE CODE:	86392	DELIVERY:	Lecture & Practicum (Lab)
COURSE CREDITS:	3.0	START DATE:	September 5 th 2013
CLASS SECTION:	01	LAB LOCATION:	rm 218 Biology Bldg
CLASS LOCATION:	rm 271 Thorvaldson Bldg	LAB TIME:	1.30 to 4.20 pm
CLASS TIME:	10.00 to 11.20 am (T,Th)	WEBSITE:	via Blackboard

Course Description

Our world has at least 15 million species, all of which have adapted to particular environments and lifestyles and use energy to grow and reproduce. We examine these processes in representative organisms from all the major groups, and discuss factors influencing changes in biodiversity over time and space.

Prerequisite(s): Biology 30 or BIOL 107 or BIOL 108.

Note: Students with credit for BIOL 110 will not receive credit for BIOL 121.

Learning Outcomes

By the completion of this course, students will be expected to:

1. have an understanding of biological principles (concepts), and that evolution is the unifying principle in biology
2. gain an appreciation for biology as an experimental science [hence, provide necessary background for advanced study of biology and other related disciplines], and realize that an understanding of biological principles requires knowledge of other fields of science (chemistry, physics, geology, geography, mathematics, biochemistry) and many disciplines within biology (e.g. evolution, ecology, genetics, physiology, structure and function, ethology, parasitology, molecular biology, etc.).
3. obtain knowledge of the diversity and complexity of life, which includes how organisms are adapted to their environment and the variation (e.g. morphological, genetic, physiological, behavioral) that exists among individuals of the same species and between individuals of related species
4. be able to think critically regarding scientific issues in our society and understand the importance of relationships between organisms and their environment, and how biodiversity is constantly changing over time

Note: The University of Saskatchewan Learning Charter is intended to define aspirations about the learning experience that the University aims to provide, and the roles to be played in realizing these aspirations by students, instructors and the institution. A copy of the Learning Charter can be found at: http://www.usask.ca/university_secretary/LearningCharter.pdf

More information on the Academic Courses Policy on course delivery, examinations and assessment of student learning can be found at:

http://www.usask.ca/university_secretary/council/academiccourses.php

Course Overview

This course is designed to introduce you to the vast and exciting field of biology, with a focus on biological diversity, evolution, adaptations of organisms to specific environments, and the evolutionary and ecological factors influencing changes in biodiversity over time and space.

Class Schedule

WEEK day	Major Lecture topics	LAB TOPIC (see lab manual for details)
1 Sept 2-6	Course Introduction	NO LAB
2 Sept 9-13	Living & Non-living Entities	LAB 1 - Introduction & Prokaryotes
3 Sept 16-20	Introduction to Biodiversity	LAB 2 - Protists
4 Sept 23-27	Classification of organisms	LAB 3 - Fungi
5 Sept 30 - Oct 4	Intraspecific & interspecific variation; Microevolution & Macroevolution	LAB 4 - Green algae, mosses, ferns & club mosses
6 Oct 7-11	Intraspecific & interspecific variation; Microevolution & Macroevolution	LAB 5 - Conifers & angiosperms * HOLIDAY FRIDAY OCT 11th
7 Oct 14-18	Intraspecific & interspecific variation; Microevolution & Macroevolution	NO LAB - HOLIDAY MONDAY OCT 14 th
8 Oct 21-25	Changes in Biodiversity through time	LAB 6 - Sponges, Cnidarians, Flatworms
9 Oct 28 - Nov 1	Changes in Biodiversity through time	LAB 7 - Nematodes, Mollusks & Annelids
10 Nov 4-8	Biodiversity today	LAB 8 - Arthropods, Echinoderms & Chordates
11 Nov 11-15	Interactions between organisms and effects on biodiversity	NO LAB - HOLIDAY MONDAY NOV 11 th
12 Nov 18-22	Interactions between organisms and effects on biodiversity	REVIEW LAB
13 Nov 25-29	Human influences on biodiversity	FINAL LAB EXAM
14 Dec 2-6	Review Lecture	NO LAB

* **Note:** due to holiday on Friday October 11th, those students with Friday lab class will have their class rescheduled earlier in the week, possibly on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday evening (depending upon your schedule)

Last day to withdraw from course without academic penalty is Friday November 15th 2013.

Laboratory class information:

1. Labs begin in the week of SEPTEMBER 9th. **Make sure you have registered for a lab on-line.** Students are expected to attend and be on time for all scheduled labs, review labs and final lab exams. The lab schedule is provided on the previous page of this document.
2. **The current edition of the Biology 121.3 lab manual is required for all labs** (this item can be purchased for \$25 at the Bookstore in Marquis Hall). For your labs you will also need a 3-ring binder; a 2H, 3H or 4H drawing pencil, white (unlined) drawing paper, a calculator, an eraser, a metric ruler and a dissection kit (all available from the Tuck Shop or Centre Shop or North 40 shop on campus).
3. Any other questions regarding the lab should be directed to the laboratory staff in Room 216. See page 2 of the lab manual for contact telephone numbers.

Instructors

Contact Information:

Dr. Neil Chilton Course Coordinator & Instructor	room 310 Biology Bldg neil.chilton@usask.ca	966-4407
Dr. Jeff Lane Instructor	room 318 Biology Bldg jeffrey.lane@usask.ca	966-4475
Mr. Joel Yurach Lab Coordinator	room 216 Biology Bldg joel.yurach@usask.ca	966-4423

Required Resources

Lab Manual: Biology 121.3 Laboratory Manual (2013-2014 Edition)

Recommended Resources

Textbook: Biology: Exploring the diversity of Life by Fenton et al. [2nd Canadian edition; Nelson Education Ltd]

Note: Copies of this text are available on reserve in the Natural Sciences Library.

Downloads

These will be available as appropriate through the course Blackboard. The only document that you are required to download and read is the course syllabus. **Please note that instructor's Powerpoint slides or lecture notes may be provided to you as a courtesy.** You are not required to download or print these slides/notes. While we will endeavour to have the lecture Powerpoint slides/notes posted sometime in advance of the lectures; however, we will not guarantee this. Each instructor will provide you with additional information about their downloads.

Grading Scheme

Midterm exam	15
Final exam	45
Lab Assignments & quizzes	20
Lab exam	20
Total	100%

Evaluation Components

Midterm Exam:

Value: 15% of final course grade
Date: October 1st (to be written starting 11 am in the lecture period)
Length: 50 minutes
Format: 40 multiple-choice questions; machine marked
Description: Based on lecture material prior to October 1st. Calculators and all other electronic devices are not allowed.

Final Exam:

Value: 45% of final course grade
Date: Consult Final Exam Schedule
Length: 3 hours
Format: 100 multiple-choice questions; machine marked
Description: The exam is comprehensive in that it will cover all lecture material. However, material delivered after the midterm exam will be emphasized. Calculators and all other electronic devices are not allowed.

Laboratory Assignments & Quizzes:

Value: 20% of final course grade
Date: see Laboratory Schedule
Format: Quizzes (written); spot tests; flower project
Description: The quizzes will be 15-20 minutes in duration and test material from the previous two or three lab exercises. The questions will generally require a short written answer. Spot tests involve images shown in PowerPoint and short questions about the specimen shown. No phones, laptops, tablets or other material allowed. Additional information about the lab quizzes is found in your lab manual, and will be given in the weeks prior to the assignment.

Laboratory Exam:

Value: 20% of final course grade
Date: During the week of November 25th (starting at 1.30 pm in the lab period)
Length: 1.5 hours
Format: This will be a mixture of spot test, short written answers and practical questions (slide prep, etc)
Description: The exam is comprehensive in that it will cover all laboratory classes. Calculators and all other electronic devices are not allowed.

University of Saskatchewan Grading System

Students in BIOL 121 are reminded that the University has established a grading system to be used in all of its courses. Information on literal descriptors for grading at the University of Saskatchewan (reproduced below) can be found at:

<http://students.usask.ca/current/academics/grades/grading-system.php>

Scheduling of Exams

Students must bring their current University of Saskatchewan student card to all exams and be prepared to present it for verification purposes. Entry into certain campus buildings where exams may be held, also requires a valid student card.

It is forbidden for students to utilize in any way during an exam, any electronic device (e.g., cell phone, dictionary, palm pilot, translator, etc.). This includes calculators because these are not required for any exam.

Midterm and final examinations, and the lab exam, must be written on the date scheduled. Final examinations may be scheduled at any time during the examination period in December 2013; students should therefore avoid making prior travel, employment, or other commitments for this period.

In the event that a student is absent from the **midterm exam** through no fault of his/her own due to a medical emergency, death in the family, or other valid reasons, documentation must be provided explaining the absence, to assist in the determination of whether permission will be granted for the student to write a deferred mid-term exam. Students absent for the Mid-Term Lecture Exam **must advise their Instructor in person or by telephone (not by email) and initiate arrangements for writing a Deferred Mid-Term Exam, within 3 working days of the missed exam**, in order to avoid being assigned a grade of zero for the exam.

If a student is absent from the **final exam** through no fault of his or her own for medical or any other valid reason, **he/she must apply to the Dean's Office of the College in which he/she is registered for an opportunity to write a Deferred Final Exam, within 3 working days of the missed exam**. Documentation must also be provided to explain the absence from the final exam. Deferred exams may utilize a different format than the regular exam, at the sole discretion of the instructors.

Consult page 2 of the 2013-2014 Lab Manual for the procedure to follow for a missed Lab Exam.

Students are encouraged to review all examination policies and procedures:

<http://www.usask.ca/calendar/exams&grades/examregs/>

Student Feedback

Marks from machine-graded exams are usually available within one week. The multiple-choice questions will not be posted after the exam. Students will be encouraged to meet with the instructor to review their performance.

Attendance Expectations for Laboratory Classes

Students are expected to attend all scheduled lab periods. Students are advised to consult the lab manual for further information about BIOL 121 procedures to follow when they are too ill to attend the lab period (and/or lab exam) or are facing extenuating personal circumstances.

Integrity Defined (from the Office of the University Secretary)

The University of Saskatchewan is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Student Conduct & Appeals section of the University Secretary Website and avoid any behavior that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students should read and be familiar with the Regulations on Academic Student Misconduct (http://www.usask.ca/university_secretary/honesty/StudentAcademicMisconduct.pdf) as well as the Standard of Student Conduct in Non-Academic Matters and Procedures for Resolution of Complaints and Appeals (http://www.usask.ca/university_secretary/honesty/StudentNon-AcademicMisconduct2012.pdf)

For more information on what academic integrity means for students see the Student Conduct & Appeals section of the University Secretary Website at:
http://www.usask.ca/university_secretary/pdf/dishonesty_info_sheet.pdf

Important Note: Additional information about student misconduct specific to BIOL 121 is found in the laboratory manual. BIOL 121 students are required to read and understand the information about misconduct that is presented in the laboratory manual.

Examinations with Disability Services for Students (DSS)

Students who have disabilities (learning, medical, physical, or mental health) are strongly encouraged to register with Disability Services for Students (DSS) if they have not already done so. Students who suspect they may have disabilities should contact DSS for advice and referrals. In order to access DSS programs and supports, students must follow DSS policy and procedures. For more information, check <http://www.students.usask.ca/disability/>, or contact DSS at 966-7273 or dss@usask.ca.

Students registered with DSS may request alternative arrangements for mid-term and final examinations. Students must arrange such accommodations through DSS by the stated deadlines. Instructors shall provide the examinations for students who are being accommodated by the deadlines established by DSS.