



BIOL*1070 Discovering Biodiversity

Winter 2020

Section(s): C01

Department of Integrative Biology

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 1.00 - November 01, 2019

1 Course Details

1.1 Calendar Description

This course strongly emphasizes the development of learning and reasoning skills, an understanding of the nature of biological inquiry, and key concepts in evolution, ecology, and organismal biology. These include the meaning and significance of biodiversity and current issues surrounding it, the evolutionary processes through which biological diversity originates and is interrelated, the complexity of organisms and the importance of physical organization and regulatory processes, and the nature of interactions among organisms and between organisms and their biotic and abiotic environments. Students lacking Grade 12 or 4U Biology should consult with their program counsellor prior to taking BIOL*1070 in first semester.

1.2 Course Description

BIOL*1070 – Discovering Biodiversity strongly emphasizes learning and reasoning skills, biological inquiry, and key concepts in evolution, ecology, and organismal biology. Topics discussed in the course include: the meaning and significance of biodiversity, current issues surrounding biodiversity, the evolutionary processes through which biological diversity originates and is interrelated, the complexity of organisms, the importance of physical organization and regulatory processes, the nature of interactions among organisms, and the nature of interactions between organisms and their biotic and abiotic environments. This course complements the two other first-year biology courses, BIOL*1080 and BIOL*1090.

1.3 Timetable

- Lecture Section 01: Monday/Wednesday, 10:30-11:20, ROZH 104
- Lecture Section 02: Monday/Wednesday, 11:30-12:20, ROZH 104
- Seminars: Monday-Thursday, 9:30-4:30, depending on day of the week; see WebAdvisor for your specific seminar section.

1.4 Final Exam

TBD.

2 Instructional Support

2.1 Instructional Support Team

Instructor: Shoshanah Jacobs
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Office Hours: TBD

Instructor: Alexander Smith
Email: salex@uoguelph.ca
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Course Co-ordinator: Lisa Robertson
Email: biol1070@uoguelph.ca
Office: SSC 3508
Office Hours: TBD.

3 Learning Resources

3.1 Required Resources

Woodlot Biodiversity (Textbook)

- Newmaster et al. 2013. Woodlot Biodiversity 2nd Edition
ISBN 978-09866554-1-8 (must use the 2nd edition).
- Available in the University of Guelph Bookstore

Field Guide to the Freshwater Mussels of Ontario (Textbook)

- Metcalfe-Smith et al. 2005. Field Guide to the Freshwater Mussels of Ontario.
ISBN 0-9733179-2-2.
- Available in the University of Guelph Bookstore

Seminar Manual (Other)

The required seminar manual will be available for sale from the Department of Integrative Biology (times and locations for purchase will be announced in class and posted on the course homepage).

Courselink (Website)

<https://courselink.uoguelph.ca>

This course makes extensive use of Courselink, the University of Guelph's online learning environment. The course website will provide information and updates about the course, including background information on the inquiry cases, schedules, quizzes, discussions, and tracking of your progress.

4 Learning Outcomes

4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Explain the central concepts of biodiversity, methods of analysis, and its ecological and societal importance
 2. Develop accurate conceptions of evolutionary processes and patterns (especially natural selection and "tree thinking"), and to correct common misconceptions about evolution
 3. Construct a conceptual framework that explains some of the causes and consequences of forest diversity
 4. Describe the interactions between organisms and their biotic and abiotic environments and be able to apply these concepts to real-world examples
 5. Organize and analyze data that characterize biological variation, patterns and relationships
 6. Interpret complex graphs and figures and be able to choose appropriate graphs and figures to illustrate different types of data
 7. Practice the process of biological inquiry using scientific methods and reasoning using real examples
 8. Appreciate the integrative nature of modern biological science
 9. Develop a level of comfort with the complexity and uncertainty inherent in biological science
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5 Teaching and Learning Activities

5.1 Course Content

The course will focus primarily on skills development and the process of inquiry entrenched within the meaning, significance, and current issues surrounding biodiversity. These will be underpinned by core concepts in evolution, ecology and physiology that will be introduced and reinforced throughout the course:

- Skills:

- To develop capabilities for independent study and research.

- To develop the ability to assess and analyze biological information.

- To reinforce numeracy skills by developing a broader knowledge base of data spreadsheets, statistical analyses and data presentation.

- To understand and practice the process of biological inquiry using scientific methods and logical reasoning.

- To develop skills for working in groups cooperatively and efficiently.

- To develop effective communication skills.

Students will be required to participate in discussion groups in lectures and seminars. Some assignments will be based on group work, however the majority of marks in the course are based on individual work.

- Concepts:

- Evolution:

- The processes by which biodiversity originates and is interrelated (evolution, with emphasis on natural selection and “tree thinking”).

- Variability occurs at multiple levels: variation (population) vs. diversity (species) and may be visible (phenotypic) or not necessarily visible (genetic).

- Causes and consequences of variation at population & species level.

- The factors determining, relatedness and phylogeny, genetic isolation.

- Adaptation and the pros/cons of specialization, invasions and radiations.

- Consequences for competition (short-term, among conspecifics or between species), speciation (long-term), and extinction risk (long-term).

- Ecology:

- The nature of interactions among organisms and between organisms and their biotic and abiotic environments at the ecological scale.

- Variability is expressed at different levels of organization (ecosystems, populations/species, and individuals).

- Causes of diversity at each level can be understood by studying the

processes operating in the levels below; the consequences of diversity can be examined as they affect diversity in the levels above. Ecosystem diversity is known to vary both in space and time. Historical processes affect the dynamics of species diversity. Understanding the complexity of variables associated with the causes and consequences of diversity. Uncertainty in current dogma and the putative effects of anthropogenic change.

Physiology:

The complexity of organisms and the importance of physical organization and regulatory processes (e.g., information flow, structure/function, development).

Changes in the external environment impacts organisms. Organisms
 i) exchange molecules with the external environment, ii) regulate internal environment (homeostasis) through feedback mechanisms, iii) regulate, others conform to specific environmental parameters.

Organisms are organized in a hierarchy from cells to tissues to organs to organ systems. Structural features at all levels of organization have functional significance.

Plants respond to environment changes; circadian rhythms, dormancy, temperature stress.

Animals respond to temperature changes differently depending on their thermal group (endothermy, ectothermy): methods of heat transfer; metabolic rate changes with animal size, activity, temperature; strategies to cope with extreme cold in ectotherms and endotherms; time frame of responses (acute, chronic, evolutionary time).

Impacts of climate change in arctic organisms include factors such as physiological change, geographic range and ecosystem disruption.

5.2 Lecture Content

Two 50-minute in-class interactions per week. The in-class interactions will focus on three inquiry cases that explore both skills and major concepts. The first case study, "Invasion! Mussels of the Great Lakes Regions" is based on a serious and current concern about loss of biodiversity in mussel species in the Great Lakes and watersheds. Key concepts in evolution will be discussed in the context of an urgent biological, environmental and societal issue in

Ontario. The second inquiry case, “Forest Biodiversity” is based on controversial issues surrounding species diversity in forests and conservation biology. Key concepts in evolution and ecology will be discussed within the framework of current ideas about forests. The third inquiry case “An Arctic Ecosystem 8C° Warmer” concerns climate change and the impact on Arctic organisms. Key concepts in evolution, ecology and physiology will be integrated into a discussion of the effects of temperature change in the short and long-term at the levels of individuals, populations, communities and ecosystems.

5.3 Seminars

One 50-minute seminar per week (~30 students + Teaching Assistant). Seminars will emphasize skills development (especially modes of scientific inquiry) and small group interactions. Students will meet weekly with a graduate student Teaching Assistant and the same group of ~30 students. Students will be organized into groups of ~4 students for activities and discussions (see below). Seminars take place both in the Science Complex and outdoors in the Dairy Bush, a woodlot on campus. Students must dress appropriately for the weather during the outdoor seminars.

5.4 Field Trips

One seminar will take place outdoors in the Dairy Bush, a woodlot on campus that is approximately a 10 minute walk from the Science Complex. Students must dress appropriately for the weather during the outdoor seminars. Students must review the field safety protocols outlined in the seminar manual before engaging in field activities.

6 Assessments

6.1 Marking Schemes & Distributions

Name	Scheme A (%)
Online Quizzes	5
Scientific Inquiry Online Skills Workshop	1
Numeracy Online Skills Workshop	1
Seminar Assignments	12
Seminar Quizzes	10
Midterm #1	10
Midterm #2	15
Forest Fragments	10
Interdisciplinary Project	10
Final Examination	26

Name	Scheme A (%)
Total	100

6.2 Assessment Details

Online Quizzes (5%)

Date: Weekly

Learning Outcome: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

- Course concepts: Evolution, ecology & physiology
- 11 quizzes @ 0.5%
- Learning outcomes addressed: 1-9
- Lowest quiz mark is dropped

Scientific Inquiry Online Skills Workshop (1%)

Learning Outcome: 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

- Learning Outcomes addressed: 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

Numeracy Online Skills Workshop (1%)

Learning Outcome: 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

- Learning outcomes addressed: 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

Seminar Assignments (12%)

Date: , In Seminar

Learning Outcome: 3, 4, 5, 7, 9

There are 5 seminar assignments worth 3% each, with the lowest mark of Assignments 1-5 dropped

Seminar Quizzes (10%)

6 quizzes @ 2% each, with the lowest quiz mark dropped.

Midterm #1 (10%)

Learning Outcome: 1, 2

- Course concepts: Inquiry Case 1 - Evolution
- Learning outcomes addressed: 1, 2
- Multiple Choice

Midterm #2 (15%)

Learning Outcome: 1, 3, 4, 6

- Course concepts: Inquiry Case 2 - Ecology
- Learning outcomes addressed: 1, 3, 4, 6
- Multiple Choice

Forest Fragments (10%)

Date: , In Seminar

Learning Outcome: 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9

- Course concepts: Ecology, Numeracy
- Learning outcomes addressed: 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9

Interdisciplinary Project (10%)

Learning Outcome: 1, 6, 8, 9

- Course concepts: Integrative thinking: evolution, ecology & physiology
- Learning outcomes addressed: 1, 6, 8, 9

Final Examination (26%)

Date: , TBA

6.3 Bonus Marks

- Throughout the lectures we will have 'clicker questions'. All of these will be worth up to a 5% bonus on your final grade. We will indicate the value of each one when they are presented, some questions will be marked simply for clicking in an answer, and others will be worth more if you select the correct answer.
- Stay tuned during lectures for more information and make sure to REGISTER YOUR CLICKERS at: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/courselink/iclickers.html>.
- We will begin counting clickers for marks on the first day of class so please come prepared and registered.

7 Course Statements

7.1 Grading Policies

- Inquiry Case Exam #1, #2 (Midterm #1, #2)

These 40-50 minute midterm exams will consist of multiple choice questions that focus on concepts and skills related to the first two inquiry cases. Sample questions will be discussed in class. There are no make up or alternate exam times offered.

- Seminar quizzes

Students will be required to prepare prior to each seminar by reading the seminar manual and other additional readings (if required).

Students will test their knowledge and understanding of the seminar activity or task, as well as key concepts or terminology in the seminar manual.

Quizzes will be completed during the first 5 minutes of seminar.

Quizzes are designed to take students no more than 2.5 minutes to complete, but students are given 5 minutes.

The lowest mark of the seminar quizzes will be dropped and will not be included in your final grade.

- Seminar Assignments

Students will explore the process of biological inquiry through directed seminar activities and through a field project focused on sampling Forest Biodiversity in a protected forest on campus. In seminars, students will use various methods to identify organisms, discuss concepts and approaches to testing hypotheses, measure biological samples, collect and analyse data. Students will use ecological methods to collect data in the field, use online resources to analyze data, and write an independent report of their findings. Assignments 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 will be worksheets completed by groups in seminar. Students that are absent, or arrive late to seminar such that they are unable to contribute equally to the group, will be given a mark of zero.

At the end of the term we will drop your lowest seminar assignment mark from Assignments 1 to 5 and not include it in your final grade.

The Forest Fragments Assignment is completed and submitted individually by students. This Assignment will be due at the indicated time to the online dropbox, and will be assessed a 25% penalty for each day late or portion thereof.

- On-line (inquiry case) quizzes

Students will be introduced to inquiry cases and related information online. Students will test their knowledge and understanding of the key

concepts and terminology in weekly online quizzes. Quizzes that are submitted late will be given a mark of zero.

- Forest Fragmentation Assignment

Students will explore the process of biological inquiry through this field project focused on sampling Forest Biodiversity in a protected forest on campus (the Dairy Bush).

Students will use ecological methods to collect data in the field, use online resources to analyze data, and write an independent report of their findings.

This assignment is completed and submitted individually by students.

This assignment will be due at the indicated time to the online dropbox, and will be assessed a 25% penalty for each day late or portion thereof.

- Interdisciplinary Project

Students will change seminar groups for the last 3 weeks of the semester and interact with students in BIOL*1080 and BIOL*1090. Students will work in small teams of students to explore an interdisciplinary theme from different perspectives depending on their course affiliation. Students will individually contribute a portion of a final poster presentation, as well as contribute to a group written component. Late Interdisciplinary Projects will not be accepted for grading and must be presented in the assigned seminar times.

- Final Exam

The final exam will be held outside of class during the normal final exam period. This 2 hour exam will consist of multiple choice questions that focus on the 3rd inquiry case inquiry as well as application of concepts from the entire semester to novel biological examples. Sample questions will be discussed in class.

7.2 Expectations and Grading

BIOL*1070 has a 0.5 credit weight. At the University of Guelph, this translates to an expectation of 10-12 hours of deliberate and productive work per week <https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ahoad.shtml>. If you notice that you are not fulfilling this expectation, please meet with your instructors to discuss strategies.

We expect you to become familiar with the University of Guelph grading policy

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/2016-2017/c08/c08-grds-proc.shtml>.

Here it is clearly stated what the expectations are in accordance with each letter grade. For example, an assignment evaluated at 80% or higher has the following attributes:

80 - 100 (A) Excellent. An outstanding performance in which the student demonstrates a superior grasp of the subject matter, and an ability to go beyond the given material in a critical and constructive manner. The student demonstrates a high degree of creative and/or logical thinking, a superior ability to organize, to analyze, and to integrate ideas, and a thorough familiarity with the appropriate literature and techniques.

If you find yourself at risk of not achieving your goals, please make sure that you seek help from any of your instructors. If you are prepared to make the effort, we will be delighted to help you.

7.3 Group Work

- Assignments 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 will be worksheets completed and submitted by groups in seminar.
- The Forest Fragments Assignment is completed and submitted individually by students.

7.4 Use of Electronic Devices & Recording of Lectures

Electronic recording of classes is expressly forbidden without consent of the instructor. When recordings are permitted they are solely for the use of the authorized student and may not be reproduced, or transmitted to others, without the express written consent of the instructor.

7.5 Course Evaluation Information

- CCS now provides the U of G Online Course Evaluation System in a secure, online environment. End of semester course and instructor evaluations provide students the opportunity to have their comments and opinions form part of the information used by Promotion and Tenure Committees in evaluating the faculty member's contributions in the area of teaching.

- Occasionally course evaluations are conducted in class.
- Please Note: Instructors do NOT receive evaluations until the end of exam period. Furthermore, evaluations are anonymous, unless you specifically indicate you want to acknowledge your comments

7.6 Course Policy on University Closure

It is sometimes decided to close the University to ensure the safety of the students, staff, and faculty at the University due to situations such as inclement weather. If the University closes during semester, seminars occurring on days when the University is closed will be rescheduled to the same day and time during last week of classes.

8 Department of Integrative Biology Statements

8.1 Academic Advisors

If you are concerned about any aspect of your academic program:

- Make an appointment with a program counsellor in your degree program. [B.Sc. Academic Advising](#) or [Program Counsellors](#)

8.2 Academic Support

If you are struggling to succeed academically:

- Learning Commons: There are numerous academic resources offered by the Learning Commons including, Supported Learning Groups for a variety of courses, workshops related to time management, taking multiple choice exams, and general study skills. You can also set up individualized appointments with a learning specialist. <http://www.learningcommons.uoguelph.ca/>
- Science Commons: Located in the library, the Science Commons provides support for physics, mathematic/statistics, and chemistry. Details on their hours of operations can be found at: <http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/get-assistance/studying/chemistry-physics-help> and <http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/get-assistance/studying/math-stats-help>

8.3 Wellness

If you are struggling with personal or health issues:

- Counselling services offers individualized appointments to help students work

through personal struggles that may be impacting their academic performance.

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/counselling/>

- Student Health Services is located on campus and is available to provide medical attention. <https://www.uoguelph.ca/studenthealthservices/clinic>
- For support related to stress and anxiety, besides Health Services and Counselling Services, Kathy Somers runs training workshops and one-on-one sessions related to stress management and high performance situations. <http://www.selfregulationskills.ca/>

9 University Statements

9.1 Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

9.2 When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. The grounds for Academic Consideration are detailed in the Undergraduate and Graduate Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Consideration and Appeals

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Grounds for Academic Consideration

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/index.shtml>

9.3 Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all students (undergraduate, graduate and diploma) except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in their respective Academic Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Registration Changes

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-reg-regchg.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

9.4 Copies of Out-of-class Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

9.5 Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance and not later than the 40th Class Day.

For Guelph students, information can be found on the SAS website

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas>

For Ridgetown students, information can be found on the Ridgetown SAS website

<https://www.ridgetownc.com/services/accessibilityservices.cfm>

9.6 Academic Integrity

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity, and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community—faculty, staff, and students—to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff, and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that encourages academic integrity. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

9.7 Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work - including lectures - cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

9.8 Resources

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies, and regulations that apply to undergraduate, graduate, and diploma programs.

Academic Calendars

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/academics/calendars>
