



IBIO*3100 Interpreting Biodiversity I

Winter 2023

Section(s): 01

Department of Integrative Biology

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 1.00 - January 10, 2023

1 Course Details

1.1 Calendar Description

This is the first of two courses that explore global and local issues in biodiversity as a capstone experience for biodiversity majors. The overall goal of the course is to provide opportunities for BIOD students to engage the application of their knowledge and skills to complex problems and issues involving "real-life" biodiversity projects within academic, government, or industry spheres. The learning outcomes include the development of key skills for interpreting biodiversity and writing a research proposal and work plan that will be executed in IBIO*4100.

Pre-Requisites: 12.00 credits

Restrictions: Enrolment restricted to BSCH.BIOD majors.

1.2 Course Description

Interpreting Biodiversity I is the first of two courses that explore global and local issues in biodiversity as a capstone experience for biodiversity majors. The overall goal of the course is to provide opportunities for BIOD students to apply their knowledge and skills to complex problems and issues involving biodiversity in academic, government, and/or industry spheres. The pedagogical approach utilizes "student centered service learning" where students will engage in a key uncertainty in biodiversity with an external "client," who has a need to resolve such issues. The client may be a private company, a government agency or municipality, a lab or institute on campus, or an NGO. Students will work independently and as a group with the guidance of a course instructor (and possibly a TA). Assignments will include both an individual project and group work to compile an annotated bibliography, a work plan, and development of a proposal. Faculty with relevant expertise for various parts of the project may participate as guest lecturers or faculty advisors. As a capstone experience for BIOD majors, the course will embrace a broad view of biodiversity that encompasses not only taxonomic diversity and abundance, but also ecological, evolutionary, and physiological aspects. This course also provides opportunities for undergraduates and benefit from direct

project involvement with the University of Guelph's world class Biodiversity Institute of Ontario (BIO).

Prerequisite(s): 12.00 credits

Restriction(s): Enrolment restricted to BSCH:BIOD majors.

1.3 Timetable

Lectures/Labs Mondays 1:00-2:20 / 2:30-5:20

Class Location: SSC 3440

Timetable is subject to change. Please see WebAdvisor for the latest information.

1.4 Final Exam

Exam time and location is subject to change. Please see WebAdvisor for the latest information.

2 Instructional Support

2.1 Instructional Support Team

Instructor:	Robert Hanner
Email:	rhanner@uoguelph.ca
Telephone:	+1-519-824-4120 x53479

Office:

SSC 2448

3 Learning Resources

4 Learning Outcomes

4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. Describe, comprehend and evaluate issues in biodiversity within the context of the major concepts in biodiversity at various spatial (global/local) and temporal scales (historical/future predictions).
2. Develop key skills for exploring and interpreting biodiversity.
3. Identify variation in species and perform biodiversity sampling methods and analysis utilizing data from real collections or surveys at the Arboretum and the Biodiversity Institute of Ontario.
4. Apply critical thinking, analysis, and independent inquiry skills to complex and interdisciplinary issues through the evaluation of biodiversity scenarios.
5. Preparing a team research project proposal that will address a current biodiversity issue for an external client.

4.2 Central Concepts

I. UNDERSTANDING BIODIVERSITY: Describe, comprehend and evaluate issues in biodiversity within the context of the major concepts in biodiversity at various spatial and temporal scales.

II. ANALYZING BIODIVERSITY: Identify variation in species and perform biodiversity sampling methods and analysis utilizing data from real collections or surveys.

4.3 Skills

The course has the following as primary goals with respect to the development of specific skills:

1. To develop a productive philosophy for learning.
2. To develop capabilities for independent study and research, including the use of library, primary literature, and online resources.
3. To develop the ability to critically assess and analyze issues in biodiversity.
4. To develop skills for interpreting biodiversity including expertise in specific taxonomic groups of interest and methods for measuring and analysing diversity.
5. To develop expertise for working in groups cooperatively and efficiently.
6. To develop effective communication skills (written and oral).
7. To develop a level of comfort with the complexity and uncertainty inherent in biological science.
8. To develop the ability to design a project that provides solutions for an external client who is dealing with a specific biodiversity issue.
9. To establish a professional profile online.

5 Teaching and Learning Activities

5.1 Lecture

Topics: Interactive Lectures (one 80 min. sessions/wk)

This course will not include lectures in the traditional sense. Instead, in-class interactions with the instructor and guest speakers will mainly function to guide students through the analysis of issues and concepts in biodiversity. These will be made as interactive as possible, using specimens and data as “learning objects” from current research projects. Issues and concepts in biodiversity will be selected that involve complex biological problems, which allow for the exploration of key concepts in evolution, ecology, and organismal biology.

5.2 Lab

Topics: Labs (3 hour session per week)

These Labs will address learning outcomes in both “Analyzing” and “Evaluating” biodiversity. Labs will include field and lab work that will represent a forum for student directed discovery involving small group interaction with guest lecturers and faculty. These will involve discussions of ideas and issues arising through group projects and critical evaluation of peer-reviewed research. They will also provide an engaging environment in which to carry out a group-based project (which will also involve interaction outside of the lab). Skills that will be developed on-line will be reinforced during the labs. On-Line independent learning assignments will be given. In addition to the lecture and lab components, students will engage in activities aimed at promoting self-assessment, skills development, background concepts and independent learning. These include the use of on-line tool such as D2L, Wiki, and concept mapping. Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to developing concept maps related to their project and the major learning outcomes* in the course. Concept mapping is a “learning object” that provides a mechanism of engagement in learner centeredness for complex learning outcomes making this an ideal tool of a senior course with many complex concepts. The University of Guelph Teaching Support Services (TTS) has adopted on-line software that will be available for the students. This is the same software

used in first year biology BIOL 1070 and therefore reinforces this skill. The in-class interactions will focus on biodiversity issues that explore both skills and major concepts. The labs will emphasize skills development and small group interactions.

6 Assessments

6.1 Marking Schemes & Distributions

Wiki/website - individual project 35%

Authentic Assessment (Weekly assessment - Cumulative) 35%

Biodiversity Research Project Proposal (Due 27 March) 20%

Project Work Plan (Due 3 April) 10%

7 Department of Integrative Biology Statements

7.1 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](#)

7.2 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>

7.3 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/>

7.4 Personal information

Personal information is collected under the authority of the University of Guelph Act (1964), and in accordance with Ontario's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) <http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/index.html>. This information is used by University officials in order to carry out their authorized academic and administrative responsibilities and also to establish a relationship for alumni and development purposes.

For more information regarding the Collection, Use and Disclosure of Personal Information policies please see the Undergraduate Calendar.
(<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/intro/index.shtml>)

7.5 Course Offering Information Disclaimer

Please note that course delivery format (face-to-face vs online) is subject to change up to the first-class day depending on requirements placed on the University and its employees by public health bodies, and local, provincial and federal governments. Any changes to course format prior to the first class will be posted on WebAdvisor/Student Planning as they become available.

8 University Statements

8.1 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.

8.2 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>

8.3 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>

8.4 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.

8.5 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 make a booking at least 14 days in advance, and no later than November 1 (fall), March 1 (winter) or July 1 (summer). Similarly, new or changed accommodations for online quizzes, tests and exams must be approved at least a week ahead of time.

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>

8.6 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>

8.7 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.

8.8 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>

8.9 Disclaimer

Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings, changes in classroom protocols, and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email.

This includes on-campus scheduling during the semester, mid-terms and final examination schedules. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the COVID-19 website (<https://news.uoguelph.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus-information/>) and circulated by email.

8.10 Illness

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g.. final exam or major assignment).

8.11 Covid-19 Safety Protocols

For information on current safety protocols, follow these links:

- <https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campusess/how-u-of-g-is-preparing-for-your-safe-return/>
- <https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campusess/spaces/#ClassroomSpaces>

Please note, these guidelines may be updated as required in response to evolving University, Public Health or government directives.
