

**BIOL 1500 – Introduction to Biology
Winter 2016**

Tuesday & Thursdays
2:30 – 4:00 pm, Stedman Lecture Hall F

Course Description

BIOL1500 is an introductory biology course introducing students to fundamental biological principals and concepts. Topics covered in the course include: cell biology, introductory biochemistry, inheritance, biodiversity, evolution and ecology.

BIOL1500 cannot be taken by any student who has taken or is currently taking another university course in biology.

Course Learning Objectives

- Upon completion of the course students should be able to:
- Demonstrate a good understanding of basic biological terminology and concepts
- Know the process of science and biological inquiry
- Describe the properties of processes of life
- Understand the chemical nature of life, and the role of biological macromolecules in the cell
- Describe the processes of replication, metabolism, cell and organism communication, and the function of cell types from animals, plants and prokaryotes
- Describe the relationship between the hereditary material, genetic inheritance and phenotypes
- Discuss the process of evolution and apply the theory of evolution to explain the unity and diversity of life.
- Communicate an awareness of the diversity of life, how life interacts with the environment and how diversity is generated
- Understand the principles of population ecology, biological communities and ecosystems

Textbook (required):

Biology: The Essentials, 2nd Edition.

Marielle Hoefnagels.

McGraw Hill. Custom Publication for York University

Instructor: Dr. Robert Tsushima

Office: 333A Farquharson Building

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:00-2:15 pm.

For appointments outside of office hours please email Dr. Tsushima

Email: Robert Tsushima - sensei@yorku.ca

Emails regarding administrative matters should be directed to:

Dharti Patel, First Year Administrative Assistant: biology@yorku.ca

102 Life Sciences Building

An average response time will be 24-48 hours. Email will not be replied routinely on weekends or holidays.

Students should use their yorku.ca email address for correspondence relating to the course. Email from other addresses, such as hotmail or yahoo, may be likely to be filtered as spam/junk. The subject line should include “BIOL 1500” and a brief mention of the topic of the email (Example Subject: “BIOL 1500: Missed midterm 1”, or “BIOL 1500 – Ch3 review question”) The body of the email should have a clearly written message, and must include your name and student number.

Course Website

Moodle is required to access any online material for this course.
Please check Moodle frequently

Course Evaluation

Class activities	5%
LearnSmart™ Weekly Tests	10%
Midterm 1	25%
Midterm 2	25%
Final Exam	35%

Student Responsibilities

- 1) You are responsible for material presented in class and the associated textbook sections. The textbook is your resource and will help you understand the course material. It contains many of the visuals presented in the lectures. Pay careful attention to the figures, and to the questions and guidelines for study at the end of each chapter.
- 2) Audio recording (ONLY audio) of the lecture is permitted. Recordings can only be shared with students enrolled in the course and section the recording was made of. Therefore recordings CANNOT be uploaded to public websites or otherwise shared publicly. Students in violation of these policies may have legal action taken against them.
- 3) The midterms will consist predominantly of multiple choice but may include short answer, fill-in, matching, calculating and drawing type questions.
- 4) Your comprehensive final will be 3 hours during the Winter exam period and will have the similar types of questions as the midterm, as well as short written questions. **It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you are available to sit for examinations during the entire exam period.** Under no circumstances will makeup exams (midterm or final) be provided because of conflict with vacation plans or work conflicts.
- 5) All assignment/test grades will be posted to Moodle when available. Do not email asking when grades will be posted or for your grade; these emails will not be responded to.

6) It is your responsibility to earn your grade. Individually adjusting a student's grade without academic merit is unethical. All requests for grade "bumping" will be ignored.

Accommodation Statement

Students who feel that there are extenuating circumstances that may interfere with their ability to successfully complete the course requirements are encouraged to discuss the matter with the Course Director as soon as possible. Please note: *"Senate policy states that students are expected to monitor their progress in courses, taking into account their personal and academic circumstances, and to make the necessary adjustments to their workload to meet the requirements and deadlines."* (from Senate Policy of Students' Responsibilities in the Petition/Appeal Processes:

<http://www.yorku.ca/univsec/senate/committees/sac/sturesp.htm>)

Students with learning, mental health, physical, sensory and medical disabilities who require reasonable accommodations in teaching style or evaluation methods are encouraged to consult with the Counselling and Disability Services (CDS - N110 Bennett Centre; <http://www.yorku.ca/cds/>) and the Course Director (Dr. Tsushima) early in the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Please note: you are not required to disclose the nature of your condition. If you are registered with CDS, Dr. Tsushima will work with CDS to ensure all reasonable accommodations are met.

Academic Integrity and Honesty

Students are expected to be familiar with and follow York University's policies regarding academic integrity. Please consult the lab manual and website below for more details:

http://www.yorku.ca/spark/academic_integrity/index.html

York's policy on Academic Honesty can be found here:

<http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=69>

Course Policies on Tests and Exams

1. If you miss a test, you must provide the Course Director with written documentation to support your absence. **Only a York "Attending Physician's Statement Form" will be accepted:**

http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/attend_physician_statement.pdf.

The documentation should cover the date of the missed test. All documentation supporting your absence for missing a test must be received at the Biology Undergraduate Office within a week of the missed test (or as soon as the student is able to return to school if you are sick for more than a week), and **students should contact the Course Director within 48 hours after a missed test. If appropriate documentation is NOT provided within ONE week, a zero will be earned on the missed test.**

Students must also provide the Course Director with a completed **"Midterm Exemption Form"** (see Moodle course website to access form).

2. The tests and final exam may include questions with written answers in addition to multiple choice items. If you believe that a written answer on a test was marked incorrectly, you must submit your (written) rationale and paper for remarking within 1 week of the test being made

available to you (if you answered in ink). *Note: Remarking can result in the mark being raised, confirmed or lowered.*

3. In order to be fair and consistent with regards to the entire class, individual grades are not negotiable. There will be no “extra credit” assignments. Marks for assignments and tests will not be “rounded”.

4. **Students who do not write the final exam**, but have completed all midterms and assignments by the scheduled dates, **must contact the Course Director for permission to write a deferred exam and provide a Deferred Standing Agreement form:**

http://registrar.yorku.ca/sites/registrar/files/pdf/deferred_standing_agreement.pdf.

It is Senate Policy that "*Normal requests for deferred standing must be communicated within one week following a missed examination, or on the last day to submit course work*".

Please check out the Registrar's Office Deferred Standing FAQs more details:

<http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/exams/deferred/>.

Students who have missed one or more midterms (or other major components) may be required to petition to write a deferred exam.

If the Course Director denies the deferred standing request, you must submit a petition to the Faculty through the Office of the Registrar. An academic committee will decide whether or not permission to write will be granted based on the situation and evidence presented. Denied petitions will result in a zero on the final exam.

See <http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/petitions/academic/> for information regarding academic petitions.

NOTE: There will be NO make-up day for the midterms. If you cannot attend the midterm AND you have valid reasons for missing the test(s), the weighting of the test and course material will be put on the final exam.

Course Policy on Incomplete/Late Course Work

Extensions on course work deadlines (class activities and LearnSmart™ tests) **will not be granted.**

LearnSmart™ tests will be completed through the student's registered McGrawHill Connect portal and due on the dates indicated at 11:59 pm.