

## Department of Biology Course Outline

### SC/BIOL 4200 3.00 – Selected Readings in Biology

#### Course Description

A reading course offered by special arrangement between an individual student and a faculty supervisor which focuses on a specialized area of biology of mutual interest. The subject matter must be significantly different from that of the student's honours thesis. A student may take this course only once for credit. One term. Three credits. Note: Open only to students with a science grade point average equal to or greater than 6.00.

#### Prerequisites

N/A

#### Course Instructors and Contact Information

Dr. Paula Wilson  
[pjwilson@yorku.ca](mailto:pjwilson@yorku.ca)

#### Schedule

N/A

#### Evaluation

The grading scheme for this course is flexible and set by the supervisor, but the work involved must be equivalent to a three credit course, and the academic level is at the 4000 level; thus work should involve substantive amounts of critical reading and analysis. As a general guideline, at least two major pieces of written work (25–30 pages each, double spaced) should be completed – for example, a literature review followed by a more analytical piece of work, such as a meta-analysis or research proposal (in the style of a research grant). Oral presentations and writing aimed at non-academic audiences (such as a Wikipedia entry) have also formed part of the evaluation for this course. The course expectations and grading scheme should be indicated on the enrolment form.

#### Important Dates

N/A

#### Resources

N/A

#### Learning Outcomes

N/A

## Course Content

The course is designed for a student who has a genuine interest in a particular area of Biology for which no course exists in the department. In such a case, the student must identify a faculty member with expertise in that area, and speak to the faculty member about acting as a supervisor for this course. A list of faculty members and their research interests may be found on the Biology web site.

**Students should be in their senior year of study. Supervisors must be full time faculty members in the Biology Department at York University.**

## Experiential Education and E-Learning

N/A

## Other Information

N/A

## Course Policies

N/A

## University Policies

### Academic Honesty and Integrity

York students are required to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and they are subject to the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty (<http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/academic-honesty-senate-policy-on/>). The Policy affirms the responsibility of faculty members to foster acceptable standards of academic conduct and of the student to abide by such standards.

There is also an academic integrity website with comprehensive information about academic honesty and how to find resources at York to help improve students' research and writing skills, and cope with University life. Students are expected to review the materials on the Academic Integrity website at - <http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/>

### Access/Disability

York University is committed to principles of respect, inclusion and equality of all persons with disabilities across campus. The University provides services for students with disabilities (including physical, medical, learning and psychiatric disabilities) needing accommodation related to teaching and evaluation methods/materials. These services are made available to students in all Faculties and programs at York University.

Student's in need of these services are asked to register with disability services as early as possible to ensure that appropriate academic accommodation can be provided with advance notice. You are encouraged to schedule a time early in the term to meet with each professor to discuss your accommodation needs. Please note that registering with disabilities services and discussing your needs with your professors is necessary to avoid any impediment to receiving the necessary academic accommodations to meet your needs.

Additional information is available at the following websites:

Counselling & Disability Services - <http://cds.info.yorku.ca/>

Counselling & Disability Services at Glendon - <http://www.glendon.yorku.ca/counselling/personal.html>

York Accessibility Hub - <http://accessibilityhub.info.yorku.ca/>

### Ethics Review Process

York students are subject to the York University *Policy for the Ethics Review Process for Research Involving Human Participants*. In particular, students proposing to undertake research involving human participants (e.g., interviewing the director of a company or government agency, having students complete a questionnaire, etc.) are required to submit an *Application for Ethical Approval of Research Involving Human Participants* at least one month before you plan to begin the research. If you are in doubt as to whether this requirement applies to you, contact your Course Director immediately.

### Religious Observance Accommodation

York University is committed to respecting the religious beliefs and practices of all members of the community, and making accommodations for observances of special significance to adherents. Should any of the dates specified in this syllabus for an in-class test or examination pose such a conflict for

you, contact the Course Director within the first three weeks of class. Similarly, should an assignment to be completed in a lab, practicum placement, workshop, etc., scheduled later in the term pose such a conflict, contact the Course director immediately. Please note that to arrange an alternative date or time for an examination scheduled in the formal examination periods (December and April/May), students must complete an Examination Accommodation Form, which can be obtained from Student Client Services, Student Services Centre or online at

[http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/exam\\_accommodation.pdf](http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/exam_accommodation.pdf) (PDF)

#### **Student Conduct in Academic Situations**

Students and instructors are expected to maintain a professional relationship characterized by courtesy and mutual respect. Moreover, it is the responsibility of the instructor to maintain an appropriate academic atmosphere in the classroom and other academic settings, and the responsibility of the student to cooperate in that endeavour. Further, the instructor is the best person to decide, in the first instance, whether such an atmosphere is present in the class. The policy and procedures governing disruptive and/or harassing behaviour by students in academic situations is available at - <http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/disruptive-andor-harassing-behaviour-in-academic-situations-senate-policy/>