

Department of Biology Course Outline

BIOL 3100 2.0 Current Topics in Biological Research Winter, 2019

Course Description

A review of faculty research in the Department of Biology. Students develop critical analytical skills to evaluate scientific literature and enhance communications skills in Biology. Designed to prepare students for the Honours Thesis (SC/BIOL 4000 3.00 or SC/BIOL 4000 8.00) course.

Prerequisites (strictly enforced)

None.

Course credit exclusion: None

Note: Open only to Honours students majoring in Biology, Environmental Biology or Environmental Science (life sciences stream). Required for all students taking SC/BIOL 4000 3.00 or SC/BIOL 4000 8.00. Normally taken in the year prior to completing the Honours Thesis.

Course Instructor(s) and Contact Information

Dr. Niko Troje
troje@yorku.ca

Department of Biology
Life Sciences Building,
Office: 429 B

You may contact me by email. Please include BIOL3100 in the subject line, and your full name and student number in your mail text. If you wish to have an appointment with me, please contact me by email first.

Schedule

Mondays 2:30 – 4:30 pm
Stedman Lecture Halls (LSH) C

Evaluation

The final grade for the course will be based on the following assignments and weighted as indicated:

1. Attendance! You have to be there and will lose marks if you are not (11 marks)
2. Attention! I will ask each speaker for five short multiple choice questions which you will answer at the end of each class through Moodle. The questions mainly serve as a check that you listened and were attentive through the lecture (22 marks).
3. Questions: Before each class, you have to upload two questions to Moodle (details will be provided) (22 marks).
4. Two short (500 words max.) structured thought papers (details will be provided) (45 marks)

No Midterm and No Final Exam.

Note: Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles.

Important Dates

Dates of Tests/Exams, Due Dates of Major Assignments, First class, last class, last day to switch lab sections, drop date, etc.

Drop Deadline: Fri. Mar. 8, 2019 (last day to drop without course on transcript)

Course Withdrawal: Sat. Mar. 9 to Wed. Apr. 3, 2018 (course still appears on transcript with 'W')

First lecture: Jan. 7

Due dates of assignments, last class, drop date, etc. will be announced through Moodle.

NOTE: For additional important dates such as holidays, refer to the "Important Dates" section of the Registrar's Website at <http://www.yorku.ca/yorkweb/cs.htm>

Resources

No Textbook required.

Course Website: The BIOL 3100 Moodle site will include all announcements, course materials, resources, discussion forums, and grades. <http://www.yorku.ca/moodle/>.

Learning Outcomes

The course has 2 learning objectives.

- To provide an overview of the research programs of several faculty members in the Department of Biology.
- To help you understand how research itself works.

Course Content

Faculty presentations.

Selected Readings.

Experiential Education and E-Learning

Moodle

Other Information

This course is an excellent opportunity to find out with whom among the professors of our department you would like to work in case you are going for a 4th year thesis project. Beyond that, you may also explore whether or not you are inclined to follow an academic career, get into research in biology as a graduate student, and maybe become a professor yourself one day. Take the course as a chance to ask professors how they found their way into science, what they like and what they dislike about their profession.

Course Policies

No late assignments accepted without medical statement.

Attending Physician Statement Form:

myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/pdf/attending-physicians-statement.pdf

Online submission of medical statement:

<http://science.apps01.yorku.ca/machform/view.php?id=84113>

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.

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.

Students 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 - <https://www.glendon.yorku.ca/counselling/>

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

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 and submit an [Examination Accommodation Form](#) at least 3 weeks before the exam period begins. The form can be obtained from Student Client Services, Student Services Centre or online at http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/exam_accommodation.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/>