



Individual meetings may be requested at any time to address matters that are not suitable for office hours. Use the course email to address a request for a meeting with the instructor.

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This course traces the flow of energy and nutrients from their abiotic origins to their cycles through microorganisms and animals. This course will synthesize current advances in ecology with established theory to offer a comprehensive survey of ecosystem function and process.

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Understanding the structure and function of ecosystems is fundamental to their conservation and necessary for the remediation of impacted environments. Ecosystem ecology is an area of active research nationally and internationally. Researchers gain insight from the ecosystem approach to environmental conservation (biologists' natural resource management agencies) governments at all levels.

The goals of this course are:

1) To teach you the basic principles of ecosystem ecology with a focus on terrestrial systems. This includes principles and theories on the relationships between terrestrial life and abiotic factors in the environment to understand major pathways (y and which carbon nutrients) and water cycle through the environment and how energy flows through terrestrial ecosystems. We will also examine principles from freshwater and marine systems where appropriate.

2) To teach you to critically read and evaluate papers from the primary literature. Lectures will be supplemented with readings to demonstrate methodological and theoretical principles in ecosystem ecology. Discussion sessions will help you develop skills at reading, interpreting and critically evaluating scientific articles.

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Throughout the review of the lecture material text and other assigned reading materials in exam assessments students should be able to:

1) Understand and outline the abiotic and biotic factors that define and differentiate Earth ecosystems.

2) Understand the basic flows of energy or nutrients within ecological systems and be able to describe them in a systems framework (e.g. stocks and flows; mass balance).

3) Describe the factors that affect and disrupt the functioning of ecological systems.

As a result of attending the lectures and literature discussion sessions in exam assessments students should be able to:





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\*o connect &ith a case manager or set u# an a##ointment%#lease contact [www.uwo.ca](http://www.uwo.ca).

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