



Biology 4289A

Biosystematics and Phylogenetics

Course Outline - Fall 2024

1. Course Information

See class schedule on OWL

Prerequisites

Biology 2581 and completion of 1.5 courses from Biology at the 300 level or above.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean's Designate (Department/Program Counsellors and Science Academic Advisors) to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

2. Instructor Information

Dr. Vera Tai

e-mail: vtai4@uwo.ca

office hours: Thursdays 2 - 4 pm, drop-in at BGS 2028
or e-mail to schedule another time

Teaching Assistant:

Scout Thompson

e-mail: athom95@uwo.ca

3. Course Syllabus, Schedule, Delivery Mode

Technical Requirements

! Laptop running a Mac OSX or Windows operating system

Please notify Dr. Tai immediately if you do not have a laptop and need to use a university workstation for your lab assignments

! PowerPoint or other means to create slide presentations

You will also be notified of required software to install for lab sessions. These softwares will be compatible with Mac OSX and Windows operating systems. Attending lab sessions will be essential for dealing with any technical issues.

Optional texts:

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Participation

Students are expected to be actively engaged in this class, and participate. Participation will be evaluated based on keeping pace with classes, completing lab assignments on time, and peer evaluation of presentations.

Lab/tutorial Assignments

Lab/tutorials will consist of data collection and analysis, and associated short answer questions based on material covered in lab/tutorial sessions, fundamental concepts explored in the course, or related to a student's case study (see below).

Assignments are approximately weekly and are generally completable by the end of the tutorial sessions on Thursdays, but the deadline for submission will be the next day, Friday at 5 pm. A minimum of 4 out of 8 assignments must be completed to pass this course.

Case Study

Students will choose a taxon (e.g. Sciuridae - a family of squirrels, or strains of) that they will use as a case study to explore the various concepts and techniques introduced in the course and in the lab/tutorials. These may include species concepts, evolutionary relationships, evolution of phenotypic/morphological traits, or examples of molecular phylogenetics applied to this taxon. The re2 ((2 (u) -2 (

General information about missed coursework

Students must familiarize themselves with the

posted on the

Academic Calendar:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf,

This policy does not apply to requests for Academic Consideration submitted for **attempted or completed work**, whether online or in person.

The policy also does not apply to students experiencing longer-term impacts on their academic responsibilities. These students should consult [Accessible Education](#).

Case Study Presentations

When a student misses Case Study Presentation #1 and their Academic Consideration has been granted, the presentation will be re-scheduled without penalty. When Academic Consideration has not been granted, a late penalty of 30% will be applied, and the presentation will be re-scheduled.

When a student misses Case Study Presentation #2 and their Academic Consideration has been granted, the presentation will be re-scheduled without penalty. When Academic consideration has not been granted, a late penalty of 30%

up to 48 hours past the deadline without a late penalty. Should students submit their assessment beyond 48 hours past the deadline, a late penalty of 10% per day will be applied. Academic Consideration requests may be granted only for extenuating circumstances that started before the deadline and lasted longer than the No-Late-Penalty Period (48 hours).

6. Additional Statements

Religious Accommodation

When conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request an accommodation for their absence in writing to the course instructor and/or the Academic Advising office of their Faculty of Registration. This notice should be made as early as possible but not later than two weeks prior to the writing or the examination (or one week prior to the writing of the test).

Please visit the Diversity Calendars posted on our university's EDID website for the recognized religious holidays:

<https://www.edi.uwo.ca>.

Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities policy can be found at:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Accommodation_disabilities.pdf

Academic Policies

The website for Registrarial Services is <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>.

In accordance with policy, https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf, the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at his/her official university address is attended to in a timely manner.

Electronic devices will not be permitted on tests and exams.

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Review Biology 2290 learning outcomes. You are expected to know what plagiarism is at this stage of your programme.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Remote Proctoring, in the event of a health lock-down:

Tests and examinations in this course will be conducted using a remote proctoring service. By taking this course, you are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge that you will be required to provide **personal information** (including some biometric data) and the session will be **recorded**. Completion of this course

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education at:

http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html

if you have any questions regarding accommodations.

Learning-skills counsellors at the Student Development Centre (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

Western University is committed to a thriving campus as we deliver our courses in the mixed model of both virtual and face-to-face formats. We encourage you to check