

Course Outline: Biology 2483B
Ecology
Summer 2024

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Andrea Butnari
Office hours: Virtual appointment only
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It is easy to feel isolated from your classmates, TAs, and instructor with a distance studies course. We will do our best to create an online community throughout the duration of the course. Contributing to Forum posts via OWL is a great way to achieve this.

For all inquiries regarding the course, materials, and assessments, use the Forums on OWL to ask questions and interact with your classmates, TAs, and instructor. *Only personal matters should be dealt with via email with your instructor.*

Course Information

Course Description:

An introduction to ecology, the scientific study of the interactions that determine the distribution and abundance of plants, animals, and microorganisms. Ecological concepts at the organism, population and ecosystem levels will be considered, including tolerance limits, life history evolution, competition, predation, population growth and control, and ecosystem dynamics.

Prerequisite:

A minimum mark of 60% in either Biology 1001A or Biology 1201A and a minimum mark of 60% in either Biology 1002B or Biology 1202B or Integrated Science 1001X.

Course Lectures:

Lecture recordings will be posted on OWL in an asynchronous format. I highly recommend following the lecture schedule (posted below) so you do not fall behind on course material. It can otherwise be difficult to self-discipline in an online asynchronous course.

Materials Required

Strong Internet Connection

A strong internet connection is mandatory for completion of this course. All exams, assignments, and lecture downloads will require a strong internet connection. Failure to have access to dependable internet is not considered a legitimate reason for not being able to complete exams or assignments.

Proctortrack Access

In addition to materials listed below, completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. Information about the technical requirements for Proctortrack is available

Exams (70%)

Exams in this course will be conducted using the remote proctoring service, Proctortrack. 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**. More information about this remote proctoring service is available in the Online Proctoring Guidelines at the following link:

<https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/onlineproctorguidelines.pdf>

Midterm

The midterm is on July 5 from 10:00am-12:00pm and is worth 35% of your final mark. The test will draw on the first 12 lectures (3 weeks of material). Further details will be posted on the OWL course website.

Final Exam

The final exam will be scheduled by the Registrar's Office and the date will be announced after the beginning of term. It is worth 35% of your final mark. The test will draw on the material from the entire course, with a stronger emphasis on material from the second half of the course. Some questions will test your ability to integrate information from the first and second halves of the course. The test will be run online through Proctortrack on OWL. Further details will be posted on the OWL course website.

Course Schedule

I recommend separating each week's material into two separate days. Sticking to a set schedule each week will help you to stay on track throughout the course.

Day 1 Topics & Readings Day 2 Topics & Readings Assessments

Accommodation and Accessibility

Accessible Education

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documents

All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.

For policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs, see:

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

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

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

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if

