

## Department of Biology Course Outline

### BIOL4265 BIOLOGY IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT 3.0, FALL 2023

#### Course Description

*Official Calendar Course Description*

This course summarizes our progress in conceptualizing, understanding and in solving large-scale ecological problems caused by the introduction of pollutants and exotic species to the environment. 3 lecture hours per week. 3.0 Credits.

#### Prerequisites (strictly enforced)

Prerequisites: SC/BIOL 2050 4.00, SC/BIOL 2060 3.00.

#### Course Instructor(s) and Contact Information

Instructors: Nargol Ghazian and Mario Zuliani  
218 Lumbers  
Telephone: 416.736.2100  
e-mail: Biology4265@gmail.com  
Office hours: Flexible, please set up an appointment.

#### Schedule

Date and Time: TUESDAY AND THURSDAY: 10:00-11:30AM  
Locations: CLH (Curtis Lecture Hall) 110  
Start date: September 7th

#### Evaluation

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

Participation: 10% (attending class, especially attending all 6 oral presentation classes and contributing critically to the discussion of your peers' presentation)

Summaries: 20% (best 5/6, each worth 4%)

Letter to the editor: 10%

Written critique: 15%

Oral presentation #1: 15%

Final project: 30% (20% poster, 10% oral presentation #2)

## Important Dates

**Drop Deadline:** Nov. 8th, 2023 (last day to drop without course on transcript)

**Course Withdrawal:** Nov. 9th to Dec. 5th, 2023 (course still appears on transcript with 'W')

## Resources

Links to peer-reviewed publications & slide decks provided.

## Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Critically read environmental science peer-reviewed journal publications.
2. Reverse-engineer the critical reproducible science tools using peer-reviewed publications.
3. Appreciate the extent and scope of environmental challenges we face globally.
4. Explain the balance between direct human needs and environmental health.
5. Do a formal synthesis with long-term data.
6. Effectively communicate scientific synthesis findings to the public.

## Course Content

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>What's Due?</u>
Sep. 7th	Introduction to the course; How to read a paper; Literature research	
Sep. 12th	Science of climate change and climate adaptation; Summaries.	
Sep. 14th	Science of climate change and climate/environmental justice.	
Sep. 19th	Ocean health and coastal habitats.	<b>Due: Summary #1</b>
Sep. 21st	Ocean health and micro-plastics; Introduction to letter to the editor.	
Sep. 26th	Fire ecology and science of wildfires.	<b>Due: Summary #2</b>
Sep. 28th	Fire ecology and science of wildfires.	
Oct. 3rd	Invasion and invasive species; Introduction to written critique.	<b>Due: Summary #3</b>
Oct. 5th	Invasion and invasive species.	<b>Due: Letter to the Editor</b>
Oct. 17th	Urban ecology, expansion, and consumer culture.	<b>Due: Summary #4; Written Critique</b>
Oct. 19th	Urban ecology, expansion, and consumer culture; Introduction to oral presentation #1.	
Oct. 24th	Conservation biology and pollinators.	<b>Due: Summary #5</b>
Oct. 26th	Conservation biology and bioremediation.	
Oct. 31st	<b>Oral presentation #1.</b>	
Nov. 2nd	<b>Oral presentation #1.</b>	
Nov. 7th	<b>Oral presentation #1.</b>	
Nov. 9th	Freshwater biology, lakes, and road salt.	
Nov. 14th	Introduction to final course project.	<b>Due: Summary #6</b>
Nov. 16th	Ecological engineering and restoration.	
Nov. 21st	Ecological engineering and restoration.	
Nov. 23rd	No formal lecture - question period for final project.	
Nov. 28th	<b>Oral presentation #2.</b>	<b>Due: Final poster</b>
Nov. 30th	<b>Oral presentation #2.</b>	
Dec. 5th	<b>Oral presentation #2.</b>	

**NOTE: Oct. 10th and Oct. 12th are reading week and there are no classes**

## Experiential Education and E-Learning

Numerous open science tools will be highlighted including R for statistics, twitter for scientific communication, big data resources, and open data repositories such as FigShare.

## Other Information

### EXPECTATIONS

Teamwork, team science, collaboration, and open dialog is strongly encouraged and promoted in this course. However, effective scientific writing is also a critical professional skill we will develop. Consequently, students are provided time and opportunity to discuss all topics and research, but all final writing for weekly exercises and tests should be done independently. The submission service turnitin provides effective and comprehensive plagiarism checking, and students must thus ensure writing is done independently.

## Course Policies

Alternative dates for assignments/evaluations are not available in this course. If documentation is provided for valid absences, accommodation will be granted in mutual discussion with the professors. To promote fairness and student responsibility, all exercises are due on the dates specified herein. A 10% penalty will be applied for everyday after.

Students who anticipate being unable to submit the exercises on the due date are encouraged to submit early.

Grades on exercises and exams are not negotiable. Every reasonable action is made to ensure advance reminders are provided and instruction. Thus, the course director should only be contacted if there is calculation or clerical error present.

The Document Submission System must be used to submit all documentation associated with absences.

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

## 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/>

**Important** A note from the Faculty of Science Committee on Examinations and Academic Standards: Numerous students in Faculty of Science courses have been charged with academic misconduct when materials they uploaded to third party repository sites (e.g. Course Hero, One Class, etc.) were taken and used by unknown students in later offerings of the course. The Faculty's Committee on Examinations and Academic Standards (CEAS) found in these cases that the burden of proof in a charge of aiding and abetting had been met, since the uploading students had been found in all cases to be wilfully blind to the reasonable likelihood of supporting plagiarism in this manner. Accordingly, to avoid this risk, students are urged not to upload their work to these sites. Whenever a student submits work obtained through Course Hero or One Class, the submitting student will be charged with plagiarism and the uploading student will be charged with aiding and abetting.

Note also that exams, tests, and other assignments are the copyrighted works of the professor assigning them, whether copyright is overtly claimed or not (i.e. whether the © is used or not). Scanning these documents constitutes copying, which is a breach of Canadian copyright law, and the breach is aggravated when scans are shared or uploaded to third party repository sites.

### **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://cde.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](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-and-harassing-behaviour-in-academic-situations-senate-policy/>