
BIOL 2060 Introductory Ecology (F-09)

Teaching Team

Professors: Dr. Daniel Ruzzante LSC-4045 494-1688 *Daniel.Ruzzante@dal.ca*
Dr. Sandra Walde LSC-3132 494-6432 *Sandra.Walde@dal.ca*

Instructor: Allison Schmidt LSC-4015 494-1638 *Allison.Schmidt@dal.ca*
Please contact the instructor through BLS mail NOT regular DAL email.

Teaching Assistants: (TBA)

Texts (A copy of each is also “on reserve” at the Killam library)

Required:

Molles, M.C. and J.F. Cahill. 2008. Ecology: concepts and applications. McGraw-Hill Ryerson, Toronto. pp642.

Knisely, K. 2009. A student handbook for writing in biology. 3rd ed. Sinauer Associates, Sunderland, Mass. pp237. This version uses MSOffice 2007.

Knisely, K. 2005. A student handbook for writing in biology. 2nd ed. Sinauer Associates, Sunderland, Mass. pp237. This version uses MSOffice 2003.

Lectures & Lab/Tutorials

Lecture times: M W F 10:35-11:25, Room: Killam Library MACME

Labs: Room 4009 - LSC (4th floor, Biology)

Sessions: Tuesday: 10:05-11:55 and 13:35-15:25
Wednesday: 14:35-16:25
Thursday: 10:05-11:55 and 14:35-16:25
Friday: 13:35-15:25

Allison's Office Hours: (TBA through BLS Calendar) – if you need to make an appointment outside of office hours please call or email the instructor through BLS mail.

Note: Regular weekly lab/tutorial sessions and Office hours begin Tuesday, September 15th.

Lab/Tutorial Assignments

Assignments will be introduced weekly in lab where background information and detailed instructions will be given **in addition** to that in this guide. Attendance at all sessions is expected.

Reports are normally due one week after assignment. A 10% penalty per day (30% for weekends) is levied on late assignments. Furthermore, late assignments will NOT be accepted after graded papers have been returned to the class. EXCEPTIONS may apply – see page 3.

It is the student's responsibility to ensure that assignments are delivered, intact, with adequate identification to the lab or to a faculty member or teaching assistant. Students must keep backup copies of all submitted class work.

Evaluation

Mid-term exam	20%
(October 23 rd , in-class, Dr Ruzzante's lecture material only)	
Final exam (scheduled by Registrar)	40%
Lab/Tutorial Assignments	<u>40%</u>
	100%

Conversion of numeric grades to letter grades:

A+ - 90-100	B+ - 75-79	C+ - 61-64	D - 50-53
A - 85-89	B - 70-74	C - 58-60	F - <50
A- - 80-84	B- - 65-69	C- - 54-57	

Computing and Email

All Dalhousie students have a **NetID** which is required to access Dalhousie email, course web sites, and all public student computer labs which host a variety of application software. Check your Dalhousie email regularly – this is the main route for “mail” between professors and students.

In the laboratory component of **BIOL 2060** you will carry out computer simulations using MINITAB, and in addition you will use Microsoft Excel, MINITAB or comparable software to carry out some basic statistics and graphing.

As a Dalhousie student, you can install the MINITAB 15.1.1.0 software for Windows (about 73 MB) on your personal computer free of charge. The software can be accessed from the UCIS Computer Services section at http://ucis.dal.ca/services/computer_services/downloads/minitab_intro.html

There are student computers in the main Computer Centre (basement of Killam Library), the Biology-Earth Sciences computer lab (room 2084, Biology), the Biology computer lab (room 2087, Biology) or the LSC 200 computer lab. Lab hours and programming assistants' hours are posted in each location.

Class Website and Online Resources

Biology 2060 has a **BLS** (Blackboard Learning System) web page accessible only to students registered in the class. Login at **MY.DAL** then click the “Learning Resources” tab near the top of the page. A list of **BLS** classes will be displayed. Click on **BIOL 2060**.

This **BIOL2060 BLS** site is a vitally important class resource. It will be used for:

- class-related private mail and public discussions
- posting class “handout” materials,
- posting all important class notices,
- posting grades,and more. **Check this site regularly !**

Exceptional Circumstances

Students are responsible for all material covered in the 2060 class. However, extenuating circumstances do sometimes arise, and in these instances the Biology 2060 faculty sincerely encourage students to meet with them in an attempt work out reasonable accommodation. In the event of **illness** or other **unusual circumstances**, special arrangements for examinations, tests and assignments **may** be made at the instructor's discretion, provided students notify the Instructor on or before the date of the assignment or test, and that appropriate documentation, such as a doctor's note, is provided within one week of the due date of the assignment or test. Please refer to section 16.8, p.38 of the 2009/2010 Dalhousie Calendar.

Students with disabilities are encouraged to register as quickly as possible at the Student Accessibility Services if they wish to receive academic accommodations. To do so please phone 494-2836, email access@dal.ca, drop in at the new Mark A. Hill Accessibility Centre or visit our website www.studentaccessibility.dal.ca . Students are also reminded that, for your convenience, all forms are now available on our website.

Pandemic H1N1 Influenza Advisory in relation to Academic Continuity

In the event of an escalation of the pandemic H1N1 influenza virus, the University may need to make changes to certain elements of class schedules and/or evaluation plans as outlined in the course's syllabus. Any changes are intended to support the primary goal of reducing the risk of spreading a pandemic influenza among students, faculty and staff.

Although it is difficult to predict the severity of the pandemic, the University is committed to minimizing the impact on student's academic progress. Therefore, every effort will be made to provide students with options for continued learning and for continued fair evaluations.

Changes may include but are not limited to:

- Adjustments to course assignments;
- Changes to the dates of exams;
- Arrangements for alternative evaluations for students affected by H1N1 influenza virus;
- Adjustments to work terms;
- Modification of marks awarded for participation;
- Adjustments to attendance policies.

Any alternative plan made in individual courses may be superseded by University-wide or Government measures to reduce the spread of the pandemic H1N1 influenza virus.

If you exhibit any flu symptoms: stay home and notify your instructor by phone or email as soon as possible. For more details on flu symptoms, prevention, protection and updates go to <http://flu.dal.ca> .

Intellectual Honesty and Discipline at Dalhousie

(With permission, from the **Academic Integrity** website)

Academic Integrity Statement

At Dalhousie University, we respect the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility and respect. As a Dalhousie student and a member of the academic community, you are expected to abide by these values and the policies which enforce them.

What is academic integrity?

Academic integrity is ensuring that any work you submit is your own and that you have given appropriate acknowledgement to any sources that you consulted. "Dalhousie University defines plagiarism as the submission or presentation of the work of another as if it were one's own. Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offence which may lead to the assignment of a failing grade, suspension or expulsion from the University." (from *Undergraduate Calendar section on Intellectual Honesty*).

Some examples of plagiarism are:

- failure to attribute authorship when using a broad spectrum of sources such as written or oral work, computer codes/programs, artistic or architectural works, scientific projects, performances, web page designs, graphical representations, diagrams, videos, and images;
- downloading all or part of the work of another from the Internet and submitting as one's own
- the submission of a paper prepared by any person other than the individual claiming to be the author
- submitting work that has been completed through collaboration or previously submitted for another assignment without permission from your instructor

How is plagiarism detected?

Professors and TAs are highly skilled at recognizing discrepancies between writing styles, inappropriate citations, and obvious word-for-word copying. In addition, the Senate has affirmed the right of any instructor to require that student papers be submitted in both written and digital format, and to submit any paper to an originality check such as that performed by Turnitin.com. Copies of student papers checked by this process will be retained by Turnitin.com.

What happens if I am accused of plagiarism?

Instructors are required to forward any suspected cases of plagiarism to the Academic Integrity Officer (AIO) for the Faculty. You will be informed of the allegation by the AIO and a meeting will be convened. You may contact the Dalhousie Student Advocacy Service who will be able to assist you in preparing a defense. Until the case is resolved, your final grade will be an "INC". If you are judged to have committed an offence, penalties may include a loss of credit, F in a course, suspension or expulsion from the University, or even the revocation of a degree (for more information see Academic Integrity website listed below).

How can I avoid plagiarism?

- Give appropriate credit to the sources used in your assignment
 - Use RefWorks to keep track of your research and edit and format bibliographies in the citation style required by the instructor - <http://www.library.dal.ca/How/RefWorks>
- If you are ever unsure about ANYTHING, contact your instructor or TA
- Prepare your paper completely independently
- Make sure you understand Dalhousie's policies on academic integrity

Where can I turn for help?

- Academic Integrity website - <http://academicintegrity.dal.ca>
 - Links to policies, definitions, online tutorials, tips on citing and paraphrasing
- Writing Center - <http://writingcentre.dal.ca/>
 - Proofreading, writing styles, citations

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- Dalhousie Libraries - <http://www.library.dal.ca/How/>
 - Workshops, online tutorials, citation guides, Assignment Calculator, RefWorks
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Here at Dalhousie, academic integrity, with its embodied values, is seen as a foundation of our university. Our Academic Integrity website (<http://academicintegrity.dal.ca>) is an exceptional resource, providing access to current university policies and highlighting issues of concern. Equally important, the site provides resources for students and faculty, all in order to promote ongoing acceptable academic practices and to discourage violations of acceptable conduct.

It is a responsibility of ALL students to be familiar with behaviours and practices associated with academic integrity – ignorance is no excuse for plagiarism, cheating or any other academic offence.

COPYING is a form of plagiarism and/or cheating that is of particular concern in BIOL2060. While we do encourage collaboration and the exchange of ideas, the final written text, tables and figures that appear in your reports should reflect your own unique style of writing text and displaying data.

- DO NOT borrow a classmate's report or lend your completed or partially completed report,
- DO NOT deliberately pattern your work after that of a classmate
- DO NOT use old reports from previous terms
- DO NOT simply print out and submit 2 identical copies of tables and graphs that you and a classmate have been collaborating on.
- You must **MAKE THE REPORT YOUR OWN, INDEPENDENT, PIECE OF WORK** in all respects; otherwise you will have “copied”, thereby committing an academic offence.

Lecture and Lab Outline

Date & Lect.		Lecture Topic – Dr Ruzzante	Lab/Tutorial Topic
Sept 11-F	1	Introduction (<i>Molles and Cahill: Ch 1,5-6</i>)	Labs start Tue. Sept 15
Sept 14 –M 16-W 18- F	2 3 4	Energy (<i>Chs 7</i>) Behavioral Ecology (<i>Chs 8</i>) Life History and the Niche (<i>Ch 9</i>)	Measuring and Graphing (5 pts)
21-M 23-W 25- F	5 6 7	Population Distribution, Abundance & Density, Metapopulations (<i>Ch10</i>) Population Distribution, Abundance & Density, Metapopulations (<i>Ch 10</i>) Population Dynamics (<i>Ch 11</i>)	Intraspecific Competition (6)
28-M 30-W Oct 2- F	8 9 10	Population Dynamics (<i>Ch 11</i>) Population Growth (<i>Ch 12</i>) Population Growth (<i>Ch 12</i>)	Populations (5)
05-M 07- W 09- F	11 12 13	Competition I (<i>Ch 13</i>) Competition II (<i>Ch 13</i>) Predation & Herbivory I (<i>Ch 14</i>)	Interspecific Competition (5)
12-M 14-W 16- F	14 15	THANKSGIVING DAY – no classes Predation & Herbivory II (<i>Ch 14</i>) Parasitism & Disease (<i>Ch 15</i>)	Field trips – Point Pleasant Park
19-M 21-W 23- F	16 17 18	Case Studies Case Studies MID-TERM EXAM	Distribution of Field Data

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Date& Lect.		Lecture Topics – Dr Walde	Lab/Tutorial Topic
Oct 26-M 28-W 30- F	1 2 3	Life on land (Ch 2) Life in water (Ch 3) Biodiversity: measurement (<i>Ch 16</i>)	NO LAB this week
Nov 02-M 04-W 06- F	4 5 6	Biodiversity: niches (<i>Ch 16</i>) Biodiversity: disturbance (<i>Ch 16</i>) Community structure (<i>Ch 17</i>)	Conservation Film Pt I – Field Report DUE (3)
09-M 11-W 13- F	7 8	Community structure (<i>Ch 17</i>) REMEMBRANCE DAY – no class Succession (<i>Ch 18</i>)	NO LAB this week – Remembrance Day
16-M 18-W 20- F	9 10 11	Succession (<i>Ch 18</i>) Large scale biodiversity (Ch 22) Habitat structure (<i>Ch 21</i>)	In-lab Discussion (1) Pt II Field Report DUE (5)
23-M 25-W 27- F	12 13 14	Large scale biodiversity (<i>Ch 22</i>) Primary production (<i>Ch 19</i>) Decomposition (<i>Ch 20</i>)	Species-Area & Island Biogeography Conservation Essay DUE (5)
30-M Dec 02-W 04- F	15 16 17	Ecosystems: Phosphorus and Aquatic Systems (<i>Ch 20</i>) Ecosystems: Carbon and Terrestrial Systems (<i>Ch 19 & 23</i>) Ecosystems: Carbon and Terrestrial Systems (<i>Ch 19 & 23</i>)	No Lab Species –Area Report DUE on your regular lab day by 16:00 (5)
07–M	18	Review	