

**Biology 4111WA
Parasitology
Course syllabus**

Winter term 2021

TEXTS: Textbooks: **There is no required textbook for this course. I can make recommendations for good one(s) to consider on request.**

Lab Manual: **Will be available for download from mycourselink (when activated and updated to reflected COVID related modifications)**

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Joe Carney
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OFFICE HOURS: email pretty much anytime

LECTURES: MWF – 10:30 – 11:30 am – ZOOM

LABORATORY: Tu – 2:30 – 5:30 pm – ZOOM (First lab: 17 January)

EVALUATION:

Lecture Final	= 15 % (will be take home exam)
In class quizzes	= 20%
Lab quizzes	= 35%
Lab Data assignment	= 15%
Term Paper	= 15%

GRADES:

A+	≥ 90
A	= 80 – 89 (1 st class standing)
B	= 70 – 79
C	= 60 – 69
D	= 50 – 59
E	= 40 – 49 (failed)
F	= 1 – 39 (failed)
F Academic Dishonesty	= 0

Withdrawal without academic penalty: 12 March 2021

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Lectures

The intent of this course is to introduce you the major animal phyla with significant numbers of parasitic representatives. The basic concepts of parasitism will be emphasized as a continuing theme including ecological, evolutionary, immunological and biochemical aspects from the perspective of both the parasite and the host.

There will be a term paper that will be based on a recent parasitological research. The topic will address some evolutionary, ecological, behavioural, biochemical, and/or immunological aspect of parasitism. The paper will be a review of that particular topic. By review I mean that you will start by explicitly identifying the topic being reviewed followed by current discussions, ideas, data, and/or controversies. If there are alternate hypotheses and interpretations of data I fully expect you to present both sides with your conclusion of the relative merits of each. If the topic is one that involves confirmation of a phenomenon, (e.g. how cestodes absorb nutrients), I expect to see papers from several authors providing evidence in support of the hypotheses. I will provide more details on the paper in class.

Laboratories

The purpose of the laboratory is to learn the methods involved in assessing host-parasite interactions. These include: (1) learning the morphology and identity of representatives of some of the major parasitic phyla; (2) necropsy procedures; (3) preservation, handling and identification of parasites; (4) how to collect, analyze, and interpret data in order to extract meaningful information, and develop and test hypotheses relevant to parasitology. Each student will be responsible for producing a journal quality report using the data pooled from this study. Given that the current pandemic precludes you learning and developing the actual hands-on skills these will be done by video demonstration and online digital resources.

Quizzes

Part of the course evaluation will be through make use of very short inclass quizzes using the polling tool of ZOOM. You will answer questions in class and lab (multiple choice). These will provide you and me with insight regarding your understanding of various concepts and principles as the course proceeds. Scoring is 1 point for answering the question and 1 point for providing a correct answer. The final score for the clicker portion of your grade will be based on 80% of the total number of available points. For example, if there are 100 total points, your score will be calculated out of 80. If you answer every question, and get them all wrong, then you would still get 50/80. This allows for absences and reduces any punitive aspect to this part of the grade. It also means you can score more than 100% for this part of your grade, which has happened in almost every class I have done this. If you are not present, then you will have missed that quiz.

COURSE POLICIES

Exams:

There is only 1 formal exam and it will be the final given in take home format.

Term Paper:

Papers submitted late will be penalized 10% per day except for a documented valid reason such as a family or medical emergency. Papers will not be graded in the absence of a completed and signed form indicating the understanding of plagiarism in its many forms. This will require the completion of an online exercise and quiz relating to plagiarism. Additional direction regarding topics and format will be provided in class.

Academic Dishonesty:

(The following is taken directly from the University website, with minor modification.)

The University takes a most serious view of offences against academic honesty. Penalties for dealing with such offences will be strictly enforced.

The following rules shall govern the treatment of candidates who have been found guilty of attempting to obtain academic credit dishonestly.

(a) The minimum penalty for a candidate found guilty of plagiarism, or of cheating on any part of a course will be a zero for the work concerned.

(b) A candidate found guilty of cheating on a formal examination or a test, or of serious or repeated plagiarism, or of unofficially obtaining a copy of an examination paper before the examination is scheduled to be written, will receive zero for the course and may be expelled from the University.

A copy of the "Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures" may be obtained from the Office of the Registrar.