Biology 4111WA
Parasitology
Course syllabus

Winter term 2026

TEXTS: Textbooks: There is no assigned textbook. I can let you know of available choices.
Lab Manual: **Available for download from mycourselink**
iClicker: Subscription based, cost based on subscription is $16 - $25 depending on length of subscription
Dissecting kit: You will need to purchase a dissecting kit from the bookstore. This has a cost of about $50.00. Choose the one that is wrapped in blue cloth edged with tan.

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Joe Carney
office: CB 4020
phone: 766-7223
email: jcarney@lakeheadu.ca

OFFICE HOURS: posted on office door or by appointment

LECTURES: MWF – 1130 – 1230: ATAC 2021

LABORATORY: Tu – 1430 – 1730: CB 3012 (First lab: 19 January)

EVALUATION:

Lecture Midterm	=	15 % (23 February)
Lecture Final	=	20 % (TBD)
iClicker	=	15%
Lab Assignment	=	20% (due with the Final exam)
Lab Exam	=	15% (1 April)
Presentation:	=	15% (TBD)

GRADES:
A+ ≥ 90
A = 80 – 89 (1st 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: 6 March 2026

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.

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) an investigation into the interactions between parasites and hosts. There will be 1 assignment associated with the lab. This will involve the necropsy of a host, collection, preservation, processing and identification of any parasites you may collect. The class data will be pooled and each student will be responsible for producing a journal quality report using these pooled data. As part of this assignment you will use some very basic statistics associated with parasitism as well as for testing relevant hypotheses. Either of these can be modified based on the availability of hosts appropriate for the exercise.

Presentation

There will be in class presentations based on the Parasite and Vector of the week. Each student will choose one parasite and one vector and make a presentation to the class on the species of choice for each. More details will be provided.

iClicker

Part of the course evaluation will make use of clicker technology. You will answer questions in class and lab (multiple choice) using the clicker to enter your answer. 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, forgotten clickers, 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.

COURSE POLICIES

Exams:
Missed exams will receive a grade of zero unless you are absent for a documented valid reason such as a family or medical emergency. If you wish to have an exam regraded you must submit a written explanation of why you think the assigned grade was incorrect within 2 weeks of return of the exam. Be aware the entire exam will be re-evaluated and your mark may go up, remain the same, or go down.
Note: this does not apply to arithmetic errors such as incorrect addition. You may bring these types of errors to my attention for correction, without a written explanation, at any time.

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.