



BIOLOGY 4710FA

LIMNOLOGY

FALL 2013

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Contents

About the Cover	7
I. An Introduction to Limnology Laboratories	8
A. Required textbook	9
B. Laboratory development	9
C. Lecture schedule for 2013	10
D. Laboratory schedule for 2013	11
II. Mark Allocation	12
A. Lecture marks	12
B. Laboratory marks	12
C. Lab reports	13
a. Title	14
b. Introduction	14
c. Methods	14
d. Results	15
e. Discussion	16
f. Acknowledgements	17
g. References	17
D. Assignments	17
E. Late penalties	17
F. Desire to Learn (D2L)	18
III. Formal Group Report	19
A. Outline	19
IV. Additional Course Resources	21
A. Writing links	21
B. Referencing software	21
C. Library resources	22
a. Useful article sites	22

D. Assignment 1	23
1. Field Trip Preparation	25
1.1. Objective	25
1.2. Introduction	25
1.3. Materials	27
1.4. Boat groups	27
1.5. Identifying and defining water body location	27
1.5.1. Name and location	27
1.5.2. Elevation	28
1.5.3. Watershed	29
1.6. Map preparation	29
1.6.1. Outline map	30
1.6.2. Lake shoreline and area	30
1.6.3. Lake length and width	34
1.7. Field equipment training	34
1.8. Required maps	34
1.9. Load vehicles	35
2. Field Trip to a Local Lake	37
2.1. Objectives	37
2.2. Materials	37
2.3. Introduction	39
2.4. Echo sounding for bathymetric maps	39
2.4.1. The echo sounder	40
2.4.2. Bathy-500MF notes	43
2.4.3. Echo sounding procedure	46
2.4.4. The “E” line	47
2.4.5. Sounding transects	49
2.5. Shoreline cruise	51
2.5.1. Bench mark and fluctuation	52
2.5.2. Structures	53
2.5.3. Slope of terrain	54
2.5.4. Inlets and outlets	54
2.5.5. Shoreline soil type	54
2.5.6. Bottom sediment types	55
2.5.7. Pollution	55
2.5.8. Vegetation	55

2.6.	Water quality assessment	57
2.6.1.	Choosing chemistry stations	59
2.6.2.	Time of day	60
2.6.3.	Water transparency	60
2.6.4.	Cloud cover	61
2.6.5.	Water surface condition	61
2.6.6.	Water colour	62
2.6.7.	Air temperature	62
2.6.8.	Thermal properties of lakes	62
2.6.9.	Vertical lake chemistry	63
2.6.10.	Measuring dissolved oxygen (DO)	65
2.6.11.	Measuring conductivity	65
2.6.12.	Measuring pH	65
2.6.13.	Determination of alkalinity	66
2.6.14.	Misc. parameters	66
2.7.	Water sampling devices and protocols	67
2.7.1.	Field procedure	67
2.8.	Water quality via Hydrolab Datasounde 4a	68
3.	Constructing a Bathymetric Map and Additional Morphometric Calculations	73
3.1.	Objectives	73
3.2.	Introduction	74
3.3.	Materials	74
3.3.1.	Bathymetric map making	74
3.3.2.	Physical features map making	74
3.3.3.	Morphometric calculations	75
3.4.	Constructing a bathymetric map	75
3.4.1.	Required number of contours	75
3.4.2.	Transcribing from tape to map	75
3.4.3.	Drawing the contours; draft bathymetric map	76
3.4.4.	Final bathymetric map	76
3.5.	Physical features map	79
3.6.	Morphometric calculations	81
3.6.1.	Measuring contour areas (A_x)	81
3.6.2.	Volume calculation	82
3.6.3.	Mean depth	82
3.6.4.	Maximum depth	83
3.6.5.	Relative depth	83

3.6.6.	Shoreline development	84
3.6.7.	Development of volume	84
3.7.	Sample calculations	84
3.7.1.	Lake volume	84
3.7.2.	Lake depths and development	86
4.	Heat Storage Capacity of Lakes	87
4.1.	Objectives	87
4.2.	Materials	87
4.3.	Introduction	87
4.3.1.	Heat capacity	90
4.4.	Method	90
4.5.	Results	92
4.6.	Report guidelines	92
5.	Nutrient Analysis	95
5.1.	Objectives	95
5.2.	Materials	95
5.3.	Introduction	95
5.4.	Nitrogen and reported nitrogen species	96
5.4.1.	WTKN: Total Kjeldahl nitrogen in water	96
5.4.2.	WTOTN: Total nitrogen (UV digestible + colourimetry)	97
5.4.3.	WNOX: nitrate and nitrite (combined via colourimetry)	97
5.4.4.	WICNO ₂ and WICNO ₃ : nitrate and nitrite (individual species via ion chromatography)	97
5.4.5.	WNH ₃ : Ammonia nitrogen	98
5.5.	Phosphorus and reported phosphorus species	98
5.5.1.	Condensed phosphates	99
5.5.2.	Ortho-phosphates	99
5.5.3.	Organic phosphates	99
5.5.4.	Analysis	99
5.5.5.	Ascorbic acid method	100
5.6.	Analytical report from LUEL	103
5.7.	Assignment guidelines (25 points)	103
6.	Carbonate Cycle, pH, Conductivity, and Alkalinity	105
6.1.	Objectives	105
6.2.	Introduction	105
6.3.	pH	106

6.4. Alkalinity	107
6.5. Conductivity	109
6.6. Solids	110
6.6.1. Total dissolved solids	110
6.6.2. Total suspended solids	111
6.7. Dissolved oxygen	111
6.7.1. Hardness	111
6.8. Measuring alkalinity	112
6.8.1. Background	112
6.8.2. Materials and methods	113
6.9. Assignment guidelines	116
7. Phytoplankton: Algae Enumeration	117
7.1. Objectives	117
7.2. Introduction	117
7.3. Materials	118
7.4. Method	118
7.4.1. Algae collection	118
7.4.2. Sample preservation	119
7.4.3. Types of algae	119
7.4.4. Counting and scoring algae	125
7.4.5. Procedure	126
7.5. Results	131
7.6. Report guidelines	131
8. Chlorophyll Analysis	135
8.1. Objectives	135
8.2. Introduction	135
8.2.1. Chlorophylls and carotenoids	136
8.3. Trichromatic method for chlorophyll analysis	137
8.3.1. Materials	137
8.3.2. Method	138
8.3.3. Calculations	140
8.4. Assignment guidelines	142
9. Introductory Toxicology: LC₅₀ Quantal Test	143
9.1. Objectives	143
9.2. Introduction	143
9.3. LC ₅₀	144

9.4. Quantal tests	144
9.4.1. Probit analysis	146
9.5. Methods	146
9.6. Results	147
9.7. Report guidelines	151
10. Sewage Treatment and Water Pollution Control Plant	153
10.1. Objectives	153
10.2. Introduction	153
10.3. Assignment details	155
11. Quality Control and Quality Assurance	157
11.1. Objectives	157
11.2. Introduction	157
Acronyms	159
Bibliography	163

About the Cover and Acknowledgements

This image (from Google Earth) is the south end of Dog Lake, the focus of your formal limnological report for 2013.

Growth chambers, glassware, water analysis standard operating procedures (SOPs), and technical assistance are provided to students courtesy of Lakehead University Environmental Laboratory (LUEL). LUEL is an ISO17025 laboratory accredited by the Canadian Association for Laboratory Accreditation Inc. (CALA). For more information about Dr. Lee's lab, visit their website at <http://lucas.lakeheadu.ca/luel/>. Job opportunities in the lab may be available through Dr. Lee's research funding or the [Lakehead University Work Study Program](#). Feel free to drop off a resume to Johane Joncas, Lab Manager in CB3022 any time!

I. An Introduction to Limnology Laboratories

Yes, as everyone knows, meditation and water are wedded forever. Why did the old Persians hold the sea holy? Why did the Greeks give it a separate deity, and own meaning. And still deeper the meaning of that story of Narcissus, who because he could not grasp the tormenting, mild image he saw in the fountain, plunged into it and was drowned. But that same image, we ourselves see in all rivers and oceans. It is the image of the ungraspable phantom of life; and this is the key to it all.

Herman Melville. Moby Dick.

The collection of accurate limnological data from water bodies is necessary for an understanding of the status of wetlands and watersheds. Lake classification systems based on trophic status aid the management of these important resources. Limnological data includes:

- Morphometric measurements: Physical factors (shape, size, structure, etc) that determine the lake basin.
- Physical characteristics: Lake models depicting hydrodynamics of water movement including stratification and the distribution of temperature, dissolved gasses, nutrients, and biota.
- Chemical parameters: Nutrients, major ions, and contaminants within the lake basin.
- Biological characteristics: Lake biomass, population numbers, and growth.

At the completion of this course, students will have the skills required to:

- Plan a successful limnological data collection field trip.
- Identify and use suitable limnological field equipment.
- Carry out calculations to estimate morphometric parameters of lakes.

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- Construct maps and graphs depicting major morphological and physical characteristics of a lake.
 - Identify suitable chemical analyses techniques to measure major inorganic and organic fractions of water samples.
 - Calculate some biological characteristics of lakes.
 - Determine the trophic status of a lake from a collection of limnological data.
 - Understand the importance of water treatment processes in protecting lakes.
 - Understand the importance of appropriate QA/QC protocols when carrying out limnological analyses.

The major practical section of this course will involve a field trip to a lake near Thunder Bay. You will conduct a lake (or partial lake) survey and practice water sample collection techniques. By the end of the course, you will have determined the trophic status of the lake. In additional weeks, you will explore additional limnological skills via practical exercises.

A. Required textbook

Limnology 3rd ed., R.W. Wetzel, 2001. Academic Press, San Diego, CA.

B. Laboratory development

Information for completing a lake survey and map production has been adapted from Part I of the Manual of Instructions: Aquatic Habitat Inventory Surveys, Ministry of Natural Resources 8th Ed., 1987 (MNR 1987). A PDF has been posted on D2L. Further labs have been adapted from (APHA et al. 1992; Lind 1975; Strickland and Parsons 1968; Wetzel and Likens 1979).

C. Lecture schedule for 2013

Lecture topics and corresponding chapters of Wetzel (2001) for 2013.

Classes begin		Sept. 9, 2013
Topic 1	Importance of Limnology	Chapter 1
Topic 2	Lake Formation	Chapter 3
Topic 3	Light	Chapter 5
Topic 4	Heat Budgets of Lakes	Chapter 6
Topic 5	Water Movement	Chapter 7
Topic 6	Oxygen	Chapter 9
Topic 7	Carbonate Cycle	Chapter 11
Topic 8	Chemical Constituents of Lakes	Chapter 12,13,14
Topic 9	Phytoplankton and Zooplankton Ecology	Chapter 15
Topic 10	Productivity of Aquatic Systems	Chapter 24, 25
Last day of classes		Dec. 1, 2013
Examination period		Dec. 5-17, 2013

D. Laboratory schedule for 2013

Please note the lab schedule for 2013 is subject to change due to inclement weather. Your participation on the field trip is mandatory! Labs are held Wednesday afternoons from 2:30 to 5:30 pm in CB3013.

Classes begin			Sept. 9, 2013
Lab Intro.	Overview & Safety	Assignment	Sept. 11
Lab 1	Field Trip Prep	Formal Report	Sept. 18
Lab 2	Lake Field Trip	Formal Report	SEPT. 22
Lab 3	Maps & Morphometry	Formal Report	Sept. 25
Lab 3 con't	Maps & Morphometry	Formal Report	Oct. 2
Lab 4	Heat Budget	Ind. Lab Report	Oct. 9
THANKSGIVING NO CLASS MONDAY			Oct. 14
Lab 5	Nutrients & LUEL	Formal +Assign.	Oct. 16
Lab 6	Alkalinity	Assignment	Oct. 23
Lab 7	Algae Enumeration	Ind. Lab Report	Oct. 30
Lab 8	Chlorophyll <i>a</i>	Assignment	Nov. 6
Lab 9	Toxicity Testing	Ind. Lab Report	Nov. 13
Lab 10	Sewage Treatment	Assignment	Nov. 20
Lab 11	QA/QC	Exam material	Nov. 27
Last day of classes		GROUP LAB DUE!	Dec. 2, 2013
Official examination period			Dec. 5-17, 2013

II. Mark Allocation

Marks for this course are as follows:

LABORATORY	45%
LECTURE	55%
COURSE TOTAL	100%

A. Lecture marks

The **lecture component** will be evaluated as follows:

Midterm	15%
Final exam	40%

The **midterm** will be written during class (date TBD) and the final exam will be written as scheduled during the formal exam period (date TBD).

B. Laboratory marks

The **laboratory component** will be evaluated as follows:

Individual Lab Reports (3)	15%
Group Formal Lab Report (1)	15%
Assignments (5, drop lowest)	15%