



## COURSE OUTLINE

### 1. **Course:** BIOL 520, Field Course in Tropical Biology - Spring 2024

Lecture 01 : MTWRF 08:00 - 16:00 in TBD

<b>Instructor</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>Hours</b>
Dr Robert Barclay	barclay@ucalgary.ca	403 220-3564	BI 330	TBA
Dr Ariane Cantin	acantin@ucalgary.ca	403-220-7622	BI 446	TBA

To account for any necessary transition to remote learning for the current semester, courses with in-person lectures, labs, or tutorials may be shifted to remote delivery for a certain period of time. In addition, adjustments may be made to the modality and format of assessments and deadlines, as well as to other course components and/or requirements, so that all coursework tasks are in line with the necessary and evolving health precautions for all involved (students and staff).

#### **In Person Delivery Details:**

Lectures, group discussions, student presentations and equipment demonstrations will take place during the on-campus portion of the course 6-10 May) from approximately 9am to 3pm (with a lunch break).

Field activities will take place at Lamanai Outpost Lodge and the surrounding area in Belize, from 12-26 May.

#### **Re-Entry Protocol for Labs and Classrooms:**

To limit the spread of COVID-19 on campus, the University of Calgary has implemented safety measures to ensure the campus is a safe and welcoming space for students, faculty and staff. The most current safety information for campus can be found [here](#).

#### **Course Site:**

D2L: BIOL 520 L01-(Spring 2024)-Field Course in Tropical Biology

**Note:** Students must use their U of C account for all course correspondence.

#### **Equity Diversity & Inclusion:**

The University of Calgary is committed to creating an equitable, diverse and inclusive campus, and condemns harm and discrimination of any form. We value all persons regardless of their race, gender, ethnicity, age, LGBTQIA2S+ identity and expression, disability, religion, spirituality, and socioeconomic status. The Faculty of Science strives to extend these values in every aspect of our courses, research, and teachings to better promote academic excellence and foster belonging for all.

The Biological Sciences Equity Committee acknowledges there are persistent barriers that prevent such accessibility and hinder our progress towards EDI. Our representatives (faculty, staff, postdocs, graduate and undergraduate students) are committed to addressing any concerns and work towards proactive solutions that enact necessary change within the department. To submit anonymous questions, comments or concerns regarding EDI related issues, please reach out to our Chair, Constance Finney ([constance.finney@ucalgary.ca](mailto:constance.finney@ucalgary.ca)), or a committee representative of your choice at <https://science.ucalgary.ca/biological-sciences/about/equity-diversity-and-inclusion>

### 2. **Requisites:**

See section [3.5.C](#) in the Faculty of Science section of the online Calendar.

#### **Prerequisite(s):**

Biology 313 and Consent of the Department.

#### **Note(s):**

- A supplementary fee will be assessed to cover additional costs associated with this course.

### 3. **Grading:**

The University policy on grading and related matters is described in [F.1](#) and [F.2](#) of the online University Calendar.

In determining the overall grade in the course the following weights will be used:

Course Component	Weight	Due Date (duration for exams)	Modality for exams	Location for exams
Participation and field notebook <sup>1</sup>	25%	Ongoing		
*Taxon exercise (Oral 2%) <sup>2</sup>	2%	May 10 2024		
**Exam <sup>3</sup>	20%	May 10 2024		
Taxon exercise (Written 8%) <sup>4</sup>	8%	May 11 2024		
Paper summary (Written 8%, Oral 2%) <sup>5</sup>	10%	May 25 2024		
Field project report (oral and written) <sup>6</sup>	35%	May 25 2024		

<sup>1</sup> This portion of the grade will consist of the instructors' evaluation of: a) student participation in field exercises and discussions on the trip and during the preparation week, and b) a field notebook, recording events of interest or significance which occur during the trip. The notebook is due Sunday 26 May prior to the departure from Lamanai.

<sup>2</sup> Oral presentations will take place in class. \*Should the university mandate us to go remote, the oral taxon reports will be synchronous online, during regular class time on this date.

<sup>3</sup> This will consist of a 60-minute quiz on Friday, 10 May on material from the readings and lectures during the on-campus preparation week. \*\*Should the university mandate us to go remote, the midterm will be synchronous online, during regular class time on this date.

<sup>4</sup> Three-page (double-spaced) paper on a group of animals or plants which may be encountered at the study site at which we will be staying and which is either unique to, or much more common in, tropical areas than other places where you have spent time (i.e. Alberta/Canada). There will be a list of suggested taxa available on Monday of the on-campus week. Information sources will be available in BI 211 or you can use other material in the library or online. Oral presentations will take place on Friday, 10 May. Written due Saturday, 11 May by 5pm.

<sup>5</sup> Students will provide a two- to three-page (double spaced) summary of a relevant research paper dealing with biodiversity and conservation issues in Belize or the tropics (preferably the Neotropics). A variety of titles will be available for you to consider, or you may choose one of your own provided it is: a) recent and b) approved by the instructors. You will be asked to do an oral summary of the contents of the paper while at the field site. You may turn in the written component at any time prior to the departure from Lamanai.

<sup>6</sup> Students will prepare a brief oral proposal for a short-term project, collect data to address the question in the proposal, and write a report on the project. Topics for projects may be selected by students from a suggested list or proposed independently, subject to approval by the instructors. Students will work in small groups. Groups will give a brief presentation of their project on the last one or two evenings. The report/paper will be due on Saturday, 25 May by 4 pm.

Each piece of work (reports, assignments, quizzes, midterm exam(s) or final examination) submitted by the student will be assigned a grade. The student's grade for each component listed above will be combined with the indicated weights to produce an overall percentage for the course, which will be used to determine the course letter grade.

The conversion between a percentage grade and letter grade is as follows.

	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D
<b>Minimum % Required</b>	90 %	87 %	84 %	81%	78%	74 %	70 %	66%	62%	56 %	50 %

The University of Calgary offers a [flexible grade option](#), Credit Granted (CG) to support student's breadth of learning and student wellness. Faculty units may have additional requirements or restrictions for the use of the CG grade at the faculty, degree or program level. To see the full list of Faculty of Science courses where CG is not eligible, please visit the following website: <https://science.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate/program-advising/flexible-grading-option-cg-grade>

#### 4. Missed Components Of Term Work:

The university has suspended the requirement for students to provide evidence for absences. Please do not attend medical clinics for medical notes or Commissioners for Oaths for statutory declarations.

In the event that a student legitimately fails to submit any online assessment on time (e.g. due to illness etc...), please contact the course coordinator, or the course instructor if this course does not have a coordinator to arrange for a re-adjustment of a submission date. Absences not reported within 48 hours will not be accommodated. If an excused absence is approved, one possible arrangement is that the percentage weight of the legitimately missed assignment could also be pro-rated among the components of the course. This option is at the discretion of the coordinator and may not be a viable option based on the design of this course.

## 5. **Scheduled Out-of-Class Activities:**

There are no scheduled out of class activities for this course.

## 6. **Course Materials:**

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam/Camera (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Stable internet connection.

For more information please refer to the UofC [ELearning](#) online website.

## 7. **Examination Policy:**

No aids are allowed on tests or examinations.

Students should also read the Calendar, [Section G](#), on Examinations.

## 8. **Approved Mandatory And Optional Course Supplemental Fees:**

- A supplementary fee will be assessed to cover additional costs associated with this course.

## 9. **Writing Across The Curriculum Statement:**

For all components of the course, in any written work, the quality of the student's writing (language, spelling, grammar, presentation etc.) can be a factor in the evaluation of the work. See also Section [E.2](#) of the University Calendar.

## 10. **Human & Living Organism Studies Statements:**

Students will not participate as subjects or researchers in human studies.

See also [Section E.5](#) of the University Calendar.

**STUDIES IN THE BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES INVOLVE THE USE OF LIVING AND DEAD ORGANISMS.** Students taking laboratory and field-based courses in these disciplines can expect involvement with and experimentation on such materials. Students perform dissections on dead or preserved organisms in some courses. In particular courses, students experiment on living organisms, their tissues, cells, or molecules. Sometimes field work requires students to collect a variety of living materials by many methods, including humane trapping.

All work on humans and other animals conforms to the Helsinki Declaration and to the regulations of the Canadian Council on Animal Care. The Department strives for the highest ethical standards consistent with stewardship of the environment for organisms whose use is not governed by statutory authority. Individuals contemplating taking courses or majoring in one of the fields of study offered by the Department of Biological Sciences should ensure that they have fully considered these issues before enrolling. Students are advised to discuss any concern they might have with the Undergraduate Program Director of the Department.

Students are expected to be familiar with [Section SC.4.1](#) of the University Calendar.

## 11. **Reappraisal Of Grades:**

A student wishing a reappraisal, should first attempt to review the graded work with the Course coordinator/instructor or department offering the course. Students with sufficient academic grounds may request a reappraisal. Non-academic grounds are not relevant for grade reappraisals. Students should be aware that the grade being reappraised may be raised, lowered or remain the same. See [Section I.3](#) of the University Calendar.

- a. **Term Work:** The student should present their rationale as effectively and as fully as possible to the Course coordinator/instructor within **ten business days** of either being notified about the mark, or of the item's return to the class. If the student is not satisfied with the outcome, the student shall submit the Reappraisal of Graded Term work [form](#) to the department in which the course is offered within 2 business days of receiving the decision from the instructor. The Department will arrange for a reappraisal of the work within the next ten business days. The reappraisal will only be considered if the student provides a detailed rationale that outlines where and for what reason an error is suspected. See sections [I.1](#) and [I.2](#) of the University Calendar

- b. **Final Exam:**The student shall submit the request to Enrolment Services. See [Section 1.3](#) of the University Calendar.

## 12. Other Important Information For Students:

- a. **Mental Health** The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the SU Wellness Centre (Room 370, MacEwan Student Centre, [Mental Health Services Website](#)) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy website ([Mental Health](#)).
- b. **SU Wellness Services:** For more information, see their [website](#) or call [403-210-9355](tel:403-210-9355).
- c. **Sexual Violence:** The Sexual Violence Support Advocate, Carla Bertsch, can provide confidential support and information regarding sexual violence to all members of the university community. Carla can be reached by email ([svsa@ucalgary.ca](mailto:svsa@ucalgary.ca)) or phone at [403-220-2208](tel:403-220-2208). The complete University of Calgary policy on sexual violence can be viewed [here](#).
- d. **Misconduct:** Academic integrity is the foundation of the development and acquisition of knowledge and is based on values of honesty, trust, responsibility, and respect. We expect members of our community to act with integrity. Research integrity, ethics, and principles of conduct are key to academic integrity. Members of our campus community are required to abide by our institutional [Code of Conduct](#) and promote academic integrity in upholding the University of Calgary's reputation of excellence. Some examples of academic misconduct include but are not limited to: posting course material to online platforms or file sharing without the course instructor's consent; submitting or presenting work as if it were the student's own work; submitting or presenting work in one course which has also been submitted in another course without the instructor's permission; borrowing experimental values from others without the instructor's approval; falsification/fabrication of experimental values in a report. Please read the following to inform yourself more on academic integrity:

[Student Handbook on Academic Integrity](#)  
[Student Academic Misconduct Policy](#) and [Procedure](#)  
[Faculty of Science Academic Misconduct Process](#)  
[Research Integrity Policy](#)

Additional information is available on the [Student Success Centre Academic Integrity page](#)

### e. Academic Accommodation Policy:

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Accommodation-Policy.pdf>

Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf>.

Students needing an accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, by filling out the [Request for Academic Accommodation Form](#) and sending it to Lisa Gieg by email [lmgieg@ucalgary.ca](mailto:lmgieg@ucalgary.ca) preferably 10 business days before the due date of an assessment or scheduled absence.

- f. **Freedom of Information and Privacy:** This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). Students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number on each subsequent page. For more information, see [Legal Services](#) website.
- g. **Student Union Information:** [SU contact](#), Email SU Science Rep: [sciencerep1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:sciencerep1@su.ucalgary.ca), [Student Ombudsman](#)
- h. **Surveys:** At the University of Calgary, feedback through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction ([USRI](#)) survey and the Faculty of Science Teaching Feedback form provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses. Your responses make a difference - please participate in these surveys.

- i. **Copyright of Course Materials:** All course materials (including those posted on the course D2L site, a course website, or used in any teaching activity such as (but not limited to) examinations, quizzes, assignments, laboratory manuals, lecture slides or lecture materials and other course notes) are protected by law. These materials are for the sole use of students registered in this course and must not be redistributed. Sharing these materials with anyone else would be a breach of the terms and conditions governing student access to D2L, as well as a violation of the copyright in these materials, and may be pursued as a case of student academic or [non-academic misconduct](#), in addition to any other remedies available at law.

**Course Outcomes:**

- be able to locate the country in which they will be studying, and be familiar with the region and have some knowledge of the historical, social, and political factors affecting that country
- be able to compare the physical and biological factors affecting tropical biomes and ecozones with those of temperate regions, and the nature of tropical forests and savannahs
- be able to explain the global patterns of biodiversity and hypotheses for these patterns
- be able to compare the level of diversity of selected taxa between Alberta and the tropical destination
- be able to list the different method(s) used to survey animals and plants of different types, and be proficient using some of these in the field
- be better able to plan and implement a research project with others, by developing an hypothesis and predictions and testing those under field conditions
- be better able to work effectively as part of a team, provide constructive feedback to team members and demonstrate collaborative report writing
- have improved oral and written communication skills
- be better at managing time effectively in a highly focused and less familiar learning environment

Electronically Approved - Apr 29 2022 12:17

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**Department Approval**