Field Project

Objectives

To develop:

(i) the capacity to identify ecological patterns in natural populations and communities,

(ii) the ability to design field experiments to scientifically explain such patterns, based on your observations and the current literature, and

(iii) the ability to write competitive research proposals.

Steps of the Project

- Introduction to the most common species from Nova Scotia's rocky intertidal habitats.
- First field trip to get familiar with habitats and species in-situ (Tor Bay Provincial Park).
- Lab discussion of suitable species for your project based on your field observations.
- Second field trip to quantify the distribution and abundance of your selected species.
- Analysis of your data and discussion of possible experiments to explain the observed patterns.
- Third field trip to examine in-situ the feasibility of your proposed experiments.
- Discussion of strategies to write a competitive research proposal.

The dates of the field trips will be agreed upon with the class to ensure maximum attendance.

Final report (research proposal)

Due at any time on the last week of classes.

Value of the Field Project

25 % of the final grade.