

Biol 112: Diversity of Life

Professor

Dr. Russell Wyeth
867-3886, rwyth@stfx.ca
Office: JBB 222,
drop in: Mon 9:15–11:15, Tues 1:15 – 2:15
Wed 9:15 – 11:15
or anytime by appointment, [email](mailto:rwyth@stfx.ca) to schedule

Lectures: NH351 (formerly 138)

Website

<http://moodle.stfx.ca>
Use your webFX userid and password
[the same as your StFX email]

Textbook (same as Biol 111)
Campbell and Reece, 2009. Biology, 8th ed.
Pearson.Toronto. **7th ed. is OK!**

Course Goals

- Have fun (with biology)
- Learn to think critically
- Understand the diversity of life, and how to communicate that understanding
- Understand how the process of evolution has lead to the diversity of life
- Appreciate the breadth of biological adaptation
- Understand the basic principles of how diverse organisms live together (ecology)
- Realize your own and your species relationship to the diversity of life

Evaluation

Midterm – Lecture portion	15%	Date& Location TBA
Midterm – Lab portion	5%	Date & Location TBA
Lab Assignments & Quizzes	10%	Dates TBA
Lab Report	10%	Date TBA
Lab Final	15%	Date & Location
Participation	5%	on website , throughout term
Lecture Final	40%	Date & Location TBA

** average of 55% in both Biol 111 & 112 is required to continue in biology programs.*

Missed Exams & Quizzes

Receive **zero** unless a valid medical excuse with signed doctor's certificate is provided,
OR arrangements are made **at least 2 weeks in advance**.

Late Assignments and Reports

Are **NOT** accepted!!! No extensions without a medical excuse.

Important Dates

Mar 1 – Mar 8, no classes – spring break
Mar 8, deadline to drop course without a fail (you must de-register on MesAMIS to do this)
Apr 7, last day of classes

Lab Instructors

Office: JBB 121
Regina Cozzi
867-2288 rcozzi@stfx.ca
Leah Rogers
867-3662 lmrogers@stfx.ca

Labs: JBB 119/122

Questions or Need Help?

Talk to Dr. Wyeth or one of your lab
instructors.

Lab Manual

Available from lab instructors
during the 1st week of classes.

First Week Labs

Labs in the first week are required only for students who did NOT take Biol 111 or are in the Faculty of Arts. Biol 111 students in other faculties may optionally attend.

In either case, contact the lab instructors about scheduling your time.

Absences

You are expected to attend all lectures, all labs, and complete all assignments and exams. A signed doctor's certificate is required for absence from a lab or more than one lecture. Unexcused absentees from labs **will be reported to the Dean.**

Students with Disabilities

In addition to working with the Program for Students with Disabilities, **you must identify** yourself to both Dr. Wyeth and your Lab Instructor within the first week of class. For more information: <http://www.mystfx.ca/campus/stu-serv/disabled-students/>

English as a Second Language

This course is taught, tested, and graded in English. If your English is not your first language **you must identify** yourself to both Dr. Wyeth and your Lab Instructor within the first week of class. ESL students are **strongly encouraged** to enrol in the Leap 3 program. <http://www.mystfx.ca/resources/writingcentre/LEAP.htm>

Writing Centre

A portion of your course grade depends on a written report, and good writing **will** improve your grade on the report. Students are **strongly encouraged** to use the Writing Centre's programs to improve their writing skills (useful far beyond this class!)

Writing Essentials: http://www.mystfx.ca/resources/writingcentre/writing_essentials.htm

eXcel: <http://www.mystfx.ca/resources/writingcentre/eXcel.htm>

Group Work

We actively encourage group discussion and study. However all exams, quizzes, assignments and reports must be **your own work.**

Cheating and Plagiarism

You must adhere to academic integrity standards.

Cheating, data fabrication or plagiarism will be punished as per official policy.

<http://www.mystfx.ca/services/registrar/academicintegritysummary.htm>

Plagiarism includes copying or paraphrasing, or using another person's ideas (or organization) without adequate credit to the source, regardless of who the source is (e.g. fellow student, the author of a book, scientific paper, or a web page).

Grading Policy

See separate document.

Visit the course website [<http://moodle.stfx.ca>] for:

- Exam dates and locations
- Course announcements
- Lecture guides
(download before lecture!)
- Lecture slides
- Assignment instructions
- Grades
- Participation mark activities
- Links to cool websites
- Study tips
- i.e. EVERYTHING

Grading Policy

Grades

All grades are based on the items set out in the syllabus and it is your responsibility to **check** the grades recorded in Moodle are accurate.

Accommodations and Regrades

During the term, special consideration will be made for deaths in the family, illness, or severe personal circumstances that affect your performance on specific items, if **documentation** is provided. Several accommodations are possible, including (but not limited to) deferred exams or papers, heavier weighting of other course items, etc. Otherwise, grades on specific items can only be changed by a re-grade of the item (i.e. your mark may go up or it may go down). You must request a re-grade of any specific item within a week of the grade being made available to you.

Notification

For deaths in the family or illness contact the Dean's office (with a doctor's note in the case of illness) who will then forward an official excuse to Dr. Wyeth. For other special personal circumstances, contact Dr. Wyeth as early as possible, preferably before the exam date or assignment due date.

No Extra Credit

There is **no possibility whatsoever** of extra credit to increase your mark either during the term or after the final exam. Anyone receiving a final course grade of 49% will **automatically** have their final exam re-graded.

Concerned About Your Grade?

If you are concerned about not meeting a specific grade in this course in order to meet a program requirement (i.e. 55% average in Biol 111 and 112 to continue in Biology, a passing grade to continue on a varsity team, etc.) you **must contact Dr. Wyeth during the term**, before the final exam.