BIOLOGY OUPFB Field Trips

The Ontario Universities’ Program in Field Biology (OUPFB) is an inter-university organization that offers a wide variety of field courses each year. All trips are open to students from participating universities who have completed (or anticipate completing) at least second year. University of Western Ontario credit for these trips can be obtained by registering in Biology 3220Z, Biology 4257Z or Biology 4258Z during the September paper add/drop period.

A 0.5 CREDIT requires a two-week course field course. Registration for a “field course” IS NOT registration for Biology 3220Z, Biology 4257Z or 4258Z

Grades are assigned on the basis of a student’s participation in the course, generally a final exam and (usually) a written assignment. Each module varies in content. Please check the OUPFB site for more details.

All trips are operated on a “break-even” basis. Students are required to pay their own transportation and accommodation costs. These costs vary considerably, depending on the location of the course.

All trips have limited enrollment and are filled on a “first-come” basis.

Registration starts Jan 31st @8:30am NCB 301A
May add after Feb 15th for the remaining spots.

To Register for a Field Trip, follow these procedures:
1. Complete the OUPFB application form. Write addresses and phone numbers clearly - they are our only contact with you.
2. After January 31st, deliver the application form to Brenda Beretta, Biology Department (NCB 301A). Have Brenda check your position on the waiting list for the field trip(s) you wish to take.
3. Attach a cheque or money order for $350.00, made out to U.W.O. to your application. This deposit, upon acceptance, will be applied to the costs of your field trip. Deposits for guaranteed positions will be deposited immediately. Deposits for waiting list positions will be held until a guaranteed position becomes available. Once we contact you for confirmation of placement, upon acceptance, we will then deposit your cheque.

**PLEASE do not purchase airline tickets without cancellation insurance.**

NOTE: People on waiting lists often get the module they want -- don't be discouraged if you do not get a guaranteed position.

Keep this OUPFB information sheet for your reference.
4. Register in Biology 3220Z, Biology 4257Z or Biology 4258Z during fall Paper add drop session in September 2020. (Your grades will appear on your Spring transcript). See information below regarding registration.
5. You should receive formal notification of your acceptance in early March 2020. You will then be contacted by the course instructor prior to the trip.
OUPFB Information Sheet – 2020

- OUPFB courses require "total immersion" in a specific topic. Be prepared to work.
- Courses are always designed to handle students with varied backgrounds. As long as you have had some basic courses in biology you should be able to handle most courses.
- When you have received acceptance for two weeks (check actual dates of duration—some include travel time) of field trips (which equals a 0.5 lab credit with an essay), register in Biology 3220Z, Biology 4257Z or Biology 4258Z during paper add drop in the Fall. You will receive course grades on your April transcripts.

  Initial registration does not commit you to a specific field trip. You can withdraw from a field trip without penalty as long as you do so before the registration deadline.

  **DEPOSITS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE AFTER THE REGISTRATION DEADLINE.**

- Field trips require a lot of prior planning and are geared to handle a specific number of students. Students that register for field trips and then simply do not show up are exceedingly unpopular. Their "costs" must be picked up by the remaining participants (hence no deposit refund).

  **IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND THE COURSE, NOTIFY THE INSTRUCTOR and Brenda IMMEDIATELY.**

- Don’t worry if you don’t hear from the instructor soon after your application is accepted. Most instructors contact students after they have a complete list of students. The usual course procedures involve:
  (a) instructor gets list of students
  (b) instructor sends out pre-course information (gear needed, travel arrangements, etc.)
  (c) course takes place
  (d) exam at end of course
  (e) final report sent to instructor within four weeks of course
  (f) instructor marks reports and submits grades within eight weeks of course.

- B.Sc. students may accumulate 0.5 course credit in field trips (Biology 3220Z). Fourth year students may accumulate 1.5 full course credits in field trips (Biology 3220Z, Biology 4257Z and Biology 4258Z).

**COURSE REGISTRATION -- PLEASE READ THIS!!!**

If you are finishing year two or three and taking a field course as a credit toward year three or four (0.5 of 5 credits allowed in one year) then you will have NO summer day course charge from U.W.O. You will go to "Add/Drop" in September 2020 and add the course and count it as either an "A" or "B" credit for year three or four.

If, however, you are taking this course to as a summer course to complete your degree then you will have to register as a "Summer Day Student" and pay summer course registration fees to U.W.O. **It is YOUR responsibility to pay the fee through your student centre.** They will not give you your final mark until you pay your Summer Day fee.

Questions about the OUPFB Program should be directed to:

Dr. Ben Rubin
Call or email for appt.
E-mail: brubin2@uwo.ca

or

Brenda Beretta
Room 301A, North Campus Bldg
Ph: 519-850-2555
E-mail: bberetta@uwo.ca

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