

COURSE OUTLINE (SYLLABUS) FOR UNDERGRADUATE COURSE – Biology 4412F/G

****This course, and other Western courses, will be delivered online until a minimum of January 31st.** Students are required to have a computer or laptop, a stable internet connection, and a working webcam and microphone. Students are expected to have cameras on during all online components, and will be required to speak, be on camera, and possibly share their computer screens during some in-class components.

Students can access the Online class via Zoom links posted on the OWL site.

1. General Course Information**Course Information**

Biology 4412F/G – Biodiversity Science Winter 2022
Lectures: Tuesdays, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm (In-person) Kresge 208 **
Tutorials: Tuesdays, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm (In-person)

List of Prerequisites

Biology 2244A – Biostatistics with a minimum 60%.

One of: Biology 3440A/B (Population Ecology), Biology 3442F/G (Conservation Biology), Biology 3445F/G (Community Ecology).

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Mode of delivery **

In-person with Online components. Lectures may be posted for asynchronous viewing, but the majority of the course will be in-person lectures / tutorials. There may be synchronous online components with international guests via Zoom.

All course material will be posted to OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>. Any changes will be indicated on the OWL site and discussed with the class.

If students need assistance, they can seek support on the [OWL Help page](#). Alternatively, they can contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#). They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

[Google Chrome](#) or [Mozilla Firefox](#) are the preferred browsers to optimally use OWL; update your browsers frequently. Students interested in evaluating their internet speed, please click [here](#).

Online Participation and Engagement

Students are expected to participate and engage with content as much as possible during

synchronous lecture / tutorial times.

- Students are expected to have a working computer microphone and webcam.
- Students are expected to speak, be on camera, and possibly share their computer screens during in-class online events.

2. Instructor Information

Dr. Zoë Lindo	Professor	zlindo@uwo.ca
Matthew (Matt) Meehan	Teaching Assistant	mmeehan5@uwo.ca

Students must use their Western (@uwo.ca) email addresses when contacting their instructors. Please put '4412' at the beginning of the subject for all email correspondence, including to your TA. Please note, we cannot guarantee response to questions in the 24-hour period prior to assignment deadlines.

3. Course Description/Syllabus

Biodiversity science is an emerging and highly integrative field of research dealing with all aspects of biological diversity. This course will address approaches and techniques for the measurement, assessment, monitoring, and management of biodiversity from genes to ecosystems. We will incorporate social, ecological, and evolutionary perspectives to understand the causes and consequences of biodiversity loss, and the socio-economics of biodiversity change.

As a result of attending integrative lectures / tutorials and successful completion of assigned course work including group projects, students should be able to:

- Articulate verbally and in writing what biodiversity is and the transdisciplinary nature of biodiversity science
- Articulate verbally and in writing the challenges facing the conservation of biodiversity
- Articulate verbally and in writing the dependence of human societies on biodiversity
- Read and critically evaluate scientific and policy literature in biodiversity
- Interpret statistical results as outputs of statistical analyses and in primary scientific literature
- Relate fundamental ecological principles (from both this, and prerequisite courses) to biodiversity concepts and issues
- Contribute substantively and collaboratively to group project documents and presentations

4. Course Materials

All course material will be posted to OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class, and students are responsible for checking OWL on a regular basis. There is no textbook for this course. All lecture and tutorial material will be disseminated in class or posted on OWL.

Technical Requirements

You must have access to a computer with the following:

- Stable internet connection
- Computer (not tablet or phone) with working microphone and webcam
- Office suite with Word, Excel, PowerPoint
- Zoom

Notes about course delivery format:

We will use a combination of online and in person classes that will be governed by both government and University health and safety guidelines for Covid, as well as the nature of the in-class activity.

5. Methods of Evaluation

The overall course grade will be calculated from:

- three (3) essays (40%),
- two (2) recorded presentations (20%),
- four (4) group-led structured interviews (20%),
- one group project composed of an in-class activity (10%) and a group presentation (10%).

Refer to the lecture schedule for dates of each assessment.

The table below outlines the University-wide grade descriptors.

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

Lecture Schedule

Lectures and tutorials are integrated. This is a tentative schedule of lectures and other activities, and assignments we will cover during the term. You are expected to attend lecture/tutorial every week.

Date	Format	Lecture Topic	Assignment given	In-class activity	Assignment due	Assessment value
Jan. 11	Online	Introduction to Biodiversity Science	Essay #1 - published article; Assigned Readings	Introductions; Course format and expectations		
Jan. 18	Online	Discovering Biodiversity; Introduction to Soil Biodiversity	Presentations Ch. 2: Assigned Readings	Discussion Ch. 1 & 2.1-2.2	Essay #1 (via OWL)	15%
Jan. 25	Online		Presentations Ch. 3 & 4: Assigned Readings	Presentations	Presentation (5 min.)(via VoiceThread)	10%
Feb. 1	In person		Group assignment #1: Assigned Readings	Presentations	Presentation (5 min.)(via VoiceThread)	10%
Feb. 8	In person	Linking Biodiversity to Ecosystems; Human Dimensions of Biodiversity	Essay #2 - assigned article	Discussion Ch. 5, SDG + group work assignment	Group Assignment #1 (In-class)	10%
Feb. 15	In person		Essay #3 - case study	Graphical abstracts - examples and discussions	Essay #2 (via OWL)	10%
Feb. 22		Reading Week				
Mar. 1	In person	TBA	Group assignment #2: Assigned Reading	Group assignment #2	Essay #3 (via OWL)	15%
Mar. 8	Online			Interview #1	Interview #1	12.5% (lead)
Mar. 15	Online			Interview #2	Interview #2	2.5% (participant)
Mar. 22	Online			Interview #3	Interview #3	2.5% (participant)
Mar. 29	Online			Interview #4	Interview #4	2.5% (participant)
Apr. 5	In person				Group assignment #2 (12 min. presentation)	10%

Accommodated Evaluations

This course is designated as an F/G course, which means that a minimum of 2500 written words (in essay form) is a compulsory component of the course; you must pass the essay components to pass the course. The written (essay) component is divided among three separate assignments, collectively worth 40% of your final grade. The remaining 60% of your final grade will be derived from in-class activities such as presentations, discussions and structured interviews.

Information about late or missed evaluations:

All self-reported absences (SRA) should be submitted within 24 hours of the end of the 48-hour period. Students are required to notify the instructor for self-reported absences by the date given in the SRA portal, otherwise the self-reported absence will be considered VOID and you will receive a grade of 0% for the course component indicated.

Late written assignments with self-reported absences (SRA) should be submitted within 24 hours of the end of the 48-hour period.

Missed in-class assignments (including group work, recorded presentations, or where the student is in a lead interview position) with self-reported absences or accommodation cannot be made-up. The weight of any missed in-class assignments will be transferred to Essay #3 (up to an additional assessment value of 15%).

Missed participation in interviews where the student is not in a lead position cannot be made-up nor re-weighted to other course components.

Late assignments of any kind without self-reported absences or accommodations will not be accepted nor re-weighted to other course components.

If more than 40% of the final grade is missed and cannot be made up (i.e. in-class activities including presentations, lead interviews etc.), the student will receive an INC for the course.

See page 6 of this syllabus for more information and links.

6. EDI statement

I seek to create a learning environment for my students that supports a diversity of thoughts, perspectives and experiences, and honors your identities. To help accomplish this:

- If you have a name and/or set of pronouns that you prefer, please let us know!
- If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please do not hesitate to schedule a Zoom meeting with me, or send me an email.
- If something was said in class (by myself or anyone) that made you feel uncomfortable, please talk to me about it.
- Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally or for other students or student groups.

The pronouns used by:

- Dr. Zoë Lindo are: *them/they/their* (preferred) or *she/her/hers* (is okay)
- Matt Meehan are: *he/him/his*

7. Land acknowledgment

We acknowledge that Western University is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéwak and Attawandaron peoples.

In this course, we acknowledge the historical and ongoing injustices that Indigenous Peoples endure in Canada, and the impacts of colonialism. We accept responsibility to contribute toward revealing and correcting miseducation as well as renewing respectful relationships with Indigenous communities through our teaching.

More information about Indigenous Services (<https://indigenous.uwo.ca/>) are available.

8. Accommodation and Accessibility

Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities policy can be found at:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Accommodation_disabilities.pdf

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

Students have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the semester, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are required to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence (SRA) are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical, or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. **All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the Western Multicultural Calendar:

<https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>

9. Academic Policies

The website for Registrarial Services is <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>.

In accordance with policy, <http://www.uwo.ca/its/identity/activatenonstudent.html>, the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at his/her official university address is attended to in a timely manner.

All of the remote learning sessions for this course will be recorded. The data captured during these recordings may include your image, voice recordings, chat logs and personal identifiers (name displayed on the screen). The recordings will be used for course management purposes (e.g. misconduct and ethics), including evaluations. Please contact the instructor if you have any concerns related to session recordings.

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions (audio or video), except where recording is an approved accommodation.

Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Plagiarism: Biology 4412G is an essay-based course. Students must write their essays and other assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author or source, they must acknowledge their debt by using quotation marks where appropriate (rare in science) and/or by properly paraphrasing and appropriately citing the source of the information. You are expected to know what plagiarism is at this stage of your programme.

Turnitin **aids** in identifying plagiarism. All required papers will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Professionalism & Privacy:

Western students are expected to follow the Student Code of Conduct. Additionally, the following expectations and professional conduct apply to this course:

- All course materials created by the instructor(s) are copyrighted and cannot be sold/shared
- All recorded sessions will remain within the course site or unlisted if streamed
- Recordings are not permitted (audio or video)
- Students are expected to follow online etiquette expectations provided below
- Students may be expected to take an academic integrity pledge before some assessments

Online Etiquette:

Components of this course will involve online interactions. To ensure the best experience for both you and your classmates, please honour the following rules of etiquette:

- “arrive” to lecture sessions on time
- use your computer and/or laptop if possible (as opposed to a cell phone or tablet)
- ensure your online (Zoom) screen name is your name
- ensure that you are in a private location to participate fully without distraction
- to minimize background noise, mute your microphone for the entire class until you are invited to speak, unless directed otherwise
- to optimize bandwidth and web quality, you may turn off your video camera for the entire class unless you are invited to speak.
- please be prepared to turn your video camera off at the instructor’s request if the internet connection becomes unstable
- unless invited by your instructor, do not share your screen in the meeting
- The course instructor or TA will act as moderator for the class and will deal with any questions from participants. To participate please consider the following:
 - If you wish to speak, use the “raise hand” function and wait for the instructor to acknowledge you before beginning your comment or question.
 - Please remember to unmute your microphone and turn on your video camera before speaking.
 - Self-identify when speaking.
 - Please remember to mute your mic and turn off your video camera after speaking (unless directed otherwise).

General considerations of “netiquette”:

- Keep in mind the different cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the students in the course.
- Be courteous toward the instructor, your TA, and your classmates.
- Be respectful of the diversity of viewpoints that you will encounter in the class and in your readings. The exchange of diverse ideas and opinions is part of the scholarly environment. “Flaming” is never appropriate.
- Be professional and scholarly in all online postings. Use proper grammar and spelling. Cite the ideas of others appropriately.

Note that disruptive behaviour of any type during online classes, including inappropriate use of the chat function, is unacceptable. Students found guilty of Zoom-bombing a class or of other serious online offenses may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

10. Support Services

Please visit the Science & Basic Medical Sciences Academic Counselling webpage for information on add/drop courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters: <https://www.uwo.ca/sci/counselling/>

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) at 661-2147 if you have any questions regarding accommodations.

The policy on Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found here:
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf

The policy on Accommodation for Religious Holidays can be found here:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_religious.pdf

Western University is committed to a thriving campus as we deliver our courses in the mixed model of both virtual and face-to-face formats. We encourage you to check out the Digital Student Experience website to manage your academics and well-being:
<https://www.uwo.ca/se/digital/>.

Learning-skills counsellors at the Student Development Centre (<http://www.sdc.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <http://westernusc.ca/services>. The following links provide information about support services at Western University.

[Academic Counselling \(Science and Basic Medical Sciences\)](#)

[Appeal Procedures](#)

[Registrarial Services](#)

[Student Development Services](#)

[Student Health Services](#)
