

**Biology 3229G     *Animal Diversity*     WINTER 2025**

**Instructor:** Dr. Graeme M. Taylor ([gtaylor8@uwo.ca](mailto:gtaylor8@uwo.ca))

**Location:**

**Prerequisite(s):** At least 1.0 course from Biology 2290F/G, Biology 2382A/B, Biology 2483A/B, Biology 2581A/B, Biology 2601A/B and registration in the third or fourth year.

**Course Coordinator and Technical Support:** Katherine Faubert ([kgreen47@uwo.ca](mailto:kgreen47@uwo.ca))

**Laboratory Demonstrators:** Cailyn Mckay ([cmckay48@uwo.ca](mailto:cmckay48@uwo.ca)), Betty Paton ([epaton3@uwo.ca](mailto:epaton3@uwo.ca)), Pedro Conceicao ([pconcei@uwo.ca](mailto:pconcei@uwo.ca))

**Brief Course Description:** This course is an introduction to animal phyla. We examine the diversity of general body plans seen across the animal kingdom, including such groups as the jellyfish and sea stars. We explore the functional design of key animal species, selected as representatives of those phyla that still have living members, in relation to their ecology and life habits. Evolutionary relationships provide a framework for our observations; as such, we will cover the basic principles of classification. This course is an exciting and eye-opening journey into understanding key innovations in the evolution of our ancestors and animal relatives.

**Lecture:** Wednesday from 11:30\_1:20 pm

**Lab Section 002:** Thursday 8:30 am — 11:30 am

**Lab Section 003:** Thursday 2:30 pm — 5:30 pm

**Lab Section 004:** Wednesday 2:30 pm — 5:30 pm

**TextBook:** Jan A. Pechenik, 2015, *Biology of the Invertebrates*, 7th edition. McGraw Hill.

**Labs:** The schedule of Labs and Lab Outlines will be posted on OWL.

**Laboratory Sessions:** Weekly labs & start on the *week of January 13<sup>th</sup>*; *no lab on the reading week.*

**Course Evaluation and Schedule:**

**Laboratory Assignments** (40% of final grade)

Lab Reports worth 4% each (8x), with a final lab at 8%

**Participation & lecture/lab reflections.** (5% of final grade)

**Essay Research work done by Jan. 20th** (pass/fail. A fail = reduction in essay grade)

**Essay done by Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>.** (15% of final grade – must pass to pass the course)

**Lecture Mid-term Exam week of March 19<sup>th</sup>.** (20% of final grade)

**Laboratory-Theory Exam last two weeks of class.** (20%)

Note: All written work is reviewed by plagiarism and AI detection software such as *Turnitin.com* on our course OWL link. Be prepared to discuss your written work with your instructor as part of the grade. Electronic versions of your work will be submitted via a portal, and hard copies will be due in the first class following the submission date.

**What to do if you miss a lecture:** Read the corresponding chapter in the textbook to learn the material covered in class. Review the posted lecture slides and ask another student to verify which material in the chapter was emphasized in class. The instructor will not provide a precis of a missed lecture, and there will be no make-up for the ‘participation and lab reflection’ component.

**What to do if you miss a lab:** Labs will commence in person starting the second week in the winter term. Lab attendance is mandatory, and students must attend only the lab section for which they have registered. Please get in touch with the technical support Katherine Faubert ([kgreen47@uwo.ca](mailto:kgreen47@uwo.ca)) and your TA within 48 hours of the missed lab. Missed labs will receive a grade of ‘0’ ***unless academic consideration has been approved and you have made contact with K. Faubert.*** Only with academic consideration will recouping your grade be possible. Because of time constraints, we cannot manage a student missing more than two labs, and lab make-ups can only occur during designated lab times during the last two weeks of class.

**What to do if you miss the essay due date:** You will have 14 days to submit your essay for a grade. The penalty for the first seven days is 1% of the paper's grade. The penalty for the next four days is 0.5% per day (total 2%), and the last three days is 5% per day.

**Contacting the instructor by email:**

Please send emails to my 'uwo' account directly (above) and during the working week. For your protection, I cannot respond to any emails that do not come from a 'uwo' account. Always include the course name 'B3229G' in the subject heading. Please note that I will not respond to emails containing questions about course content. Responding via email is time-consuming and does not allow me to assess whether you understand my answer. The best time for us to meet would be during the laboratory session.

**Scholastic offences:** All students are expected to know, understand, and follow the codes of conduct regarding scholastic offences. A detailed description of scholastic offences, including the policies and procedures, may be found under the Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar and in the University Senate Handbook (<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook>). Please review this information and ask your professor if you have any questions about how it applies to this course.

With respect to laboratory and essay assignments, it is fine to discuss your work with other students. However, **each student is expected to do the assignment on their own**, and to complete their final answers and write their prose independently and in their own words. All written assignments will be submitted to the instructor via 'TurnItin.com', which is software for detecting plagiarism.

**Accessibility**

Please contact Dr. Taylor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. For specific question regarding academic accommodations please contact [http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/index.html?academic\\_acc](http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/index.html?academic_acc)

**Support Services**

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

USC Support Services <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Success Centre <http://www.success.uwo.ca/careers/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

“Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.” (Western Academic Calendar).