

Biology 3229G *Animal Diversity* WINTER 2026

Instructor: Dr. Graeme M. Taylor (gtaylor8@uwo.ca)

Location: See Timetable

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)

Laboratory Demonstrators: Pedro Conceicao (pconcei@uwo.ca), Jacob Smith (jsmit849@uwo.ca)

Brief Course Description: This course is an introduction to animal phyla. We examine the diversity of general body plans across the animal kingdom, including groups such as 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 AM — 1:20 PM

Lab Section 002: Thursday 8:30 AM — 11:30 PM

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 begin the week of January 12; no lab week in Feb 16 or Mar 23, and the lab exam on April 1 & 2.

Office Hours: Tuesday 10 am to 11 am. Most make an appointment before attending.

Course Evaluation and Schedule:

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

Lab Reports are worth 5% each (9x). Your final grade will be based on your 8 best lab reports. If you miss one lab, it will count as your worst lab report and be dropped; if you miss two, your final exam will count for 45%.

Lecture Mid-term Exam week of March 16.	(20% of final grade)
--	-----------------------------

Laboratory-Theory Exam.	(20% of final grade)
--------------------------------	-----------------------------

Essay (Feb 2nd) & participation	(20% of final grade)
---	-----------------------------

Note#1: Must pass the Lab-theory exam and the essay to pass the course.

Note#2: All written work is reviewed by plagiarism and AI detection software such as *Turnitin.com* on our course OWL link and Grammarly. 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. Part of your essay will be written in class time, and the content here will be directly transferred to your essay.

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 a peer to verify which material from 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; students must attend only the lab section for which they are registered. Please contact your TA within 48 hours of the missed lab. Missed labs will count as your ‘worst-lab’ and be

removed from your final lab grade. The grade value of additional missed labs will result in a reweighting of your final exam.

What to do if you miss the essay due date: If you miss the Monday due date, then you will have till Friday to submit with no penalty. The penalty for the first seven days is 1% of the paper's grade. The penalty for the next five days is 1% per day (total 5%), and then 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 emails from any address other than 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

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).