Topics in Applied Biodiversity
Syllabus: EES3003H Summer 2018

Ontario Birds

Course Instructor: Dr. Rachel Sturge, rachel.sturge@utoronto.ca, SW 563B

Course Coordinator: Dr. Rachel Sturge, rachel.sturge@utoronto.ca, SW 563B
Office hours: By appointment


Other required materials: A field notebook is required for this course

Location: UTSC (EV 224) and local field sites, April 16-20.

1) Course Description

Taxonomic skills are in increasing demand among the Canadian conservation community. Taxonomic training will be customized to the students’ interests and needs in this course. This training may be in the form of specialized course offerings, one-on-one training with taxonomic experts, or other flexible options.

Students will be required to select and attend an approved taxonomy placement (i.e. Ontario Fishes, Ontario Birds, Ontario Terrestrial Plants). Students will be responsible for fully attending their approved taxonomy placement and submitting a term paper. Approval of the taxonomy placement must be documented by completion of the EES 3003 Approval Form, signed by the course coordinator.

2) Important Deadlines

- Last day to ADD this course – Monday, April 16th
- Last day to DROP this course – Tuesday, April 17th
- Scientific Report due date – June 22nd, 2018
- Please send your term paper topic to R. Dickinson by April 30th for approval
3) Academic Honesty

All work in this course is covered by the University of Toronto’s policies on Academic Misconduct (see below hyperlink), which outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty, as well as the processes for addressing academic offences. The University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously, so please REVIEW THIS MATERIAL as you are expected to be familiar with it.


Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:
- Using someone else’s ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Making up sources or facts.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment.

On tests and exams:
- Using or possessing unauthorized aids.
- Looking at someone else’s answers during an exam or test.
- Misrepresenting your identity.

In academic work:
- Falsifying institutional documents or grades.
- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor’s notes.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from Dr. Sturge or from other institutional resources (see http://academicintegrity.utoronto.ca/).

4) Attendance

- Students are REQUIRED to attend all scheduled meetings of the taxonomic placement.
- In case of illness, only fully completed official University of Toronto Illness Verification forms will be accepted for consideration (www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca). Other notes will not be accepted.
5) **Assessment**
   
a) **Scientific Report**

Students will write a scientific report related to some aspect of the taxonomic group covered in the identification workshop. Potential topics include, but are not limited to, patterns of biodiversity, historical and/or environmental drivers of biodiversity, endangered species, invasive species, biology of species or families.

Your topic must be emailed to, and approved in writing by, your instructor within one week of the conclusion of the Identification Workshop.

**Format:** Digital copy; 3,000 words max (+ references, figures, tables); double-spaced submitted to turnitin.com by the deadline.

**Evaluation:** 75% content; 25% grammar / spelling. Late assignments will be accepted at a deduction of 10% per day, including weekends.

b) **Accessibility**

We welcome students with diverse learning styles and needs at this University and in this course. If you require some sort of accommodation, please see me or contact the AccessAbility Services Office (see below links) as soon as possible. We will work with you to ensure that you are able to meet the course learning objectives successfully.

The UTSC AccessAbility Service staff (located in SW 302) are available by appointment to assess your specific needs, provide referrals, and to arrange appropriate accommodations. All enquiries are confidential.

UTSC AccessAbility: ability@utsc.utoronto.ca, (416) 287-7560, SW 302

c) **Evaluation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taxonomic placement attendance and examination</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scientific Report – <strong>due June 22nd, 2018</strong></td>
<td>50%</td>
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6) **Turnitin.com**

We will be using Turnitin.com for the Scientific Report. You are expected to submit a digital copy of your assignment to Turnitin.com and a hard copy to be marked by your instructor. The following statement is included for your information, as per University policy:

*Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University’s use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.*

You should have only one account for all of your University of Toronto coursework.

7) **Schedule of Field Trips (subject to change based on weather conditions)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Start Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 16</td>
<td>9am</td>
<td>UTSC</td>
<td>Intro to bird identifications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 17</td>
<td>7am</td>
<td>Tommy Thompson Park</td>
<td>Visit to banding station + bird watching</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 18</td>
<td>7am</td>
<td>Rouge Urban National Park</td>
<td>Intro to count surveys</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 19</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>The ROM</td>
<td>Visit to collection + tour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 20</td>
<td>7am</td>
<td>East Point Park</td>
<td>Bird bash + identification exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please assume that you will be going out into the field at least part of every class session, and dress accordingly. Unless told otherwise, bring your field guide, field notebook, and binoculars (if you own them) with you to each class.

Students are expected to make their own way to all field sites, so please arrange to carpool, where necessary. You are expected to be onsite by the listed start time. Late students will be left behind, so please be on time!

On days where we start at 7am, we will complete our day at 3pm. On days where we start later on, we will complete our day later (but class will be finished by 5pm at the latest).