

## SC/BIOL 4200 3.00 Selected Readings in Biology

### Course description:

A reading course offered by special arrangement between an individual student and a faculty supervisor which focuses on a specialized area of biology of mutual interest. The subject matter must be significantly different from that of the student's honours thesis. A student may take this course only once for credit. One term. Three credits. Note: Open only to students with a science grade point average equal to or greater than 6.0.

### Course director

Dr. Robert Tsushima (biochair@yorku.ca)

### Information about this course:

Students are expected to be in their upper years of study (i.e. will normally have completed at least 48 science credits), and supervisors must be undergraduate faculty in the Biology Department at York University.

To enroll, students must obtain an enrolment form from the Undergraduate Biology website, find a supervisor and fill out the form with the supervisor. (A list of Faculty members and their research interests may be obtained from the Biology web site or viewed in the Biology Undergraduate Handbook.) The form should then be uploaded to the Undergraduate website (go to the [Selected Readings](#) tab on the Courses section and click on 'Upload Registration form'). If the student is eligible to take the course, an enrolment window will then be opened for the student.

The grading scheme for this course is flexible and up to the supervisor, but the work involved must be equivalent to a three-credit course, and the academic level is at the 4000 level; thus work should involve critical reading and analysis. As a general guideline, at least two major pieces of written work (25–30 pages each, double spaced) would be completed – such as literature reviews, meta-analyses, research proposals (in the style of a research grant). Oral presentations and writing aimed at non-academic audiences (such as a Wikipedia entry) have also formed part of the evaluation for this course. The course expectations and grading scheme should be discussed with the supervisor and indicated on the enrolment form.

### Academic integrity:

Students are expected to be familiar with and follow York University's policies regarding academic integrity. Please consult the website below for more details:

<http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/students.htm>

Reminders: Any time you present a statement of fact, you should back it up with a scientific reference, (which should be the **primary** work(s)). It is considered plagiarism if you present unattributed ideas as your own. You must **not** include original phrases (or, worse, entire sentences) from your sources. It is important to summarize by putting things in your own words – and this is more than changing a word or two! Even following the order of particular sentences in a paragraph (or paragraphs in a paper) is unacceptable, if you are presenting the same information.

Note: for students planning to take BIOL 4000 and BIOL 4200 – it is inappropriate to receive double credit for a single body of work. Students taking both BIOL 4000 (especially the 3 credit option) and BIOL 4200 should ensure that the two pieces of work do not overlap and ideally should involve different supervisors. The objectives and thrust of the two pieces of work should be distinct. If the two courses are taken at different times, a copy of the work from the first course must be available at the completion of the second course.

SC/BIOL 4200 3.00 Selected Readings in Biology Registration Form

TERM/YEAR:      Fall \_\_\_\_\_                  Winter \_\_\_\_\_                  Summer \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_                                  Student #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_                                  Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of BIOL 4200 topic:

**Assessment:**

*Breakdown of the student evaluation and the deadline dates for the work.*

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Note 1: When the above portion has been completed, please upload this form to the [Selected Readings](#) tab on the Undergraduate website for approval by the Course Director. If you are eligible to take the course, an enrolment window will then be opened for you and you will receive an email from the Undergraduate Office with instructions to enrol.

Note 2: for student planning to take BIOL 4000 and BIOL 4200 – it is inappropriate to receive double credit for a single body of work. Student taking both BIOL 4000 (especially the 3 credit option) and BIOL 4200 should ensure that the two pieces of work do not overlap. The objectives and thrust of the two pieces of work should be distinct. If the two courses are taken at different times, a copy of the work from the first course must be available at the completion of the second courses.

If BIOL 4000 Completed, list thesis topic and supervisor's name:

*For Office Use Only*

*Approval of Course Director* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date* \_\_\_\_\_