Department of Biology Course Outline

SC/Biol 4360 3.00 Parasitology
Fall 2021

Course Description
Please note that this is a course that depends on remote teaching and learning. There will be no in-person interactions or activities on campus. This course will be delivered remotely in a SYNCHRONOUS format using the recurring Zoom meeting link shown below:
https://yorku.zoom.us/j/93443582801

Biology of animal parasites; developmental, structural and functional adaptations to the parasitic environments; immune and other responses of hosts; parasitic diseases. Three lecture hours per week. One term. Three credits.

Prerequisites
SC/Biol 2030 4.00

Course Instructor and Contact Information
Course Director - Dr. Spencer Mukai
Office – 002 Farquharson (Keelie Campus), 344 York Hall (Glendon Campus)
Email – smukai@yorku.ca
Office hours – during lectures Tuesdays 7:00-10:00 PM via Zoom or by ZOOM appointment

Schedule
Tuesdays 7:00-10:00 PM. Lectures will be recorded live on Zoom, then posted onto eClass.

Please review the technology requirements and FAQs for Moodle eClass. https://lthelp.yorku.ca/95440-student-faq

Pre-recorded lectures may also be posted on the course website and asynchronous meetings may be scheduled, if necessary. For all Zoom lectures and meetings, use the recurring Zoom meeting invite link: https://yorku.zoom.us/j/93443582801

Evaluation
Tests, Assignments and Grading:
Midterm Exam (October 26) ................................................................. 20%
Parasite ID Test 1 (October 5) – Protozoa (life cycles, structure/function, classification) .................. 10%
Parasite ID Test 2 (November 16) – Platyhelminthes (life cycles, structure/function & classification) . 10%
Parasite ID Test 3 (December 7) – Nematoda (life cycles, structure/function & classification) .......... 10%
Post-lecture mini-quizzes (~10 mini-quizzes – best 8 out of 10) ................................................... 10%
Peer-evaluated research box assignment (research box submission due on Friday June 11 plus three peer evaluations per student due on Friday November 26) ................................................................. 10%
Final Exam (cumulative- during December examination period Dec. 9-23) ....................................... 30%
100%

*Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles.

Important Dates
Mini-quizzes based on the previous lecture (due 1 week after the quiz is posted)
Parasite Identification Test 1 - Tuesday October 5, 2021
Mid-term exam - Tuesday October 26, 2021
Parasite Identification Test 2 - Tuesday November 16, 2021
Peer-evaluated research summary submission due on Friday November 26, 2021
Three research summary assessments of your peers due on Friday December 3, 2021
Parasite Identification Test 3 - Tuesday December 7, 2021
Final exam (during December examination period December 9-23, 2021)
* Do not book vacations or time off until the official examination period has ended*

First day of class: Tuesday September 14, 2021
Last day of class: Tuesday December 7, 2021
**Drop date: Friday November 12, 2021**
*Course Withdrawal Period (students can withdraw from a course & receive a “W” on the transcript): November 13 - December 7, 2021.*

*You may withdraw from a course using the registration and enrolment system after the drop deadline until the last day of class for the term associated with the course. When you withdraw from a course, the course remains on your transcript without a grade and is notated as “W”. The withdrawal will not affect your grade point average or count towards the credits required for your degree.

NOTE: for additional important dates such as holidays, refer to the “Important Dates” section of the Registrar’s Website [https://registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/fw21](https://registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/fw21)

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**Resources**


- New and used copies can be purchased from Amazon Canada [https://www.amazon.ca/Parasitology-Conceptual-Approach-Eric-Loker-ebook/dp/B07R6XC8DH/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2C7Y2P4NAOD8B&dchild=1&keywords=parasitology%2Caps%2C698&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.ca/Parasitology-Conceptual-Approach-Eric-Loker-ebook/dp/B07R6XC8DH/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2C7Y2P4NAOD8B&dchild=1&keywords=parasitology%2Caps%2C698&sr=8-1)
- According to the York University copyright office (copy@yorku.ca), students should purchase a legal copy from commercial vendors and NOT utilize sites which have uploaded the textbook illegally (see below) [https://www.academia.edu/35767270/Parasitology_A_Conceptual_Approach_Vetbooks_ir](https://www.academia.edu/35767270/Parasitology_A_Conceptual_Approach_Vetbooks_ir)
- Supplementary course material will also be made available on eClass.
- Since this course is delivered in a remote format you will need a computer, stable internet connection, perhaps a headset, and preferably a quiet place in your home. You are also responsible for downloading any software (e.g. ZOOM) required for the course.
- Several platforms will be used in this course (e.g., eClass, Zoom, etc.) through which students will interact with the course materials, the course director/TA, as well as with one another. Please review this syllabus to determine how the class meets (in whole or in part), and how office hours and presentations will be conducted.
- Students shall note the following:
  - Zoom is hosted on servers in the U.S. This includes recordings done through Zoom.
  - If you have privacy concerns about your data, provide only your first name or a nickname when you join a session.
  - The system is configured in a way that all participants are automatically notified when a session is being recorded. In other words, a session cannot be recorded without you knowing about it.

**Learning Outcomes**
Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Describe general principles and concepts of parasitology
2. Understand the terminology used in parasitology and to use parasite terminology with proper context
3. Be able to classify major parasites of animals and humans
4. Identify and describe the structure and function of cells, tissues and organs of various animal parasites
5. Describe and be able to compare and contrast the many strategies that parasitic animals have undertaken to successfully complete their life cycles in the face of discontinuity of hosts
6. Describe the diseases caused by animal parasites and understand the measures for treatment, prevention and control of each parasite
7. Generalize on the intestine as a place for animal parasites to inhabit and to predict the changes that animal parasites may make to the intestinal milieu that are supportive of the parasite
8. Describe how anthropogenic changes to the environment can alter parasite transmission
9. Describe, with the aid of figures, some of the ways by which the host may respond to the presence of animal parasites, in particular in mounting an adaptive and protective immune response, and to consider the many ways by which animal parasites may circumvent the defense mechanisms of the host

Course Content

BIOL 4360 3.0- Parasitology

FALL TERM 2021
Class dates & proposed lecture topics (Note: some dates & lecture topics may change during the term)

Sept. 14, Introduction; principles and general concepts; terminology
Sept. 21, Lecture material for this class include, parasite diversity and introduction to parasitic protozoa
Sept. 28, Lecture material for this class include, parasitic protozoa (Entamoeba histolytica, Naegleria fowleri, Acanthamoeba spp.); Parasitic protozoa- Metamonada (Giardia lamblia, Trichomonas vaginalis); general immunology
Oct. 5, PARASITE ID TEST 1-PROTOZOA (7:00-8:00 PM) - Lecture material following Parasite ID Test 1 include Basic Immunology; parasitic protozoa-Apicomplexa (Plasmodium spp); general immunology
Oct. 12, FALL READING WEEK (NO CLASS)
Oct.19, Lecture following test material for this class include, Parasitic protozoa - Apicomplexa (Plasmodium spp., Toxoplasma gondii, Cryptosporidium spp.)
Oct. 26, MIDTERM (7:00-9:00 PM)
Nov. 2, Lecture material for this class include, Parasitic Protozoa – Kinetoplastida (Leishmania spp., Trypanosoma spp., other flagellates)
Nov. 9, Lecture material to be covered include, Parasitic Protozoa – Kinetoplastida (Leishmania spp., Trypanosoma spp., other flagellates),
Nov. 16, PARASITE ID TEST 2-PLATYHELMINTHES (7:00-8:00 PM)
Lecture material following ID Test 2 include, Parasitic Protozoa – Kinetoplastida (Leishmania spp., Trypanosoma spp., other flagellates)
**Course Policies**

- **TESTS:** The entire course, including the submission of assignments, quizzes and test-taking, will take place on the course’s eClass and/or via Crowdmark. Exams and other assessments may be conducted with the aid of an online proctoring service (e.g., Proctortrack). For each of the three parasite ID tests, the Midterm, and the Final exam, you must have a stable internet connection to complete the evaluations. If you are unable to complete any of the ID tests or the Midterm due to a poor internet connection or any other technical issues, then the weight of the missed test will be transferred to the Final Exam.

- **WEEKLY QUIZZES:** ~10 mini-quizzes (5 MC questions) will be posted on eClass following the lecture. You will have 1 week to complete these questions after they are posted. You will have only 1 attempt for each question. The best 8 of 10 quizzes will be taken. You cannot make up for any missed quizzes and the weight of any missed quizzes will **NOT** be transferred to the Final Exam.

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**Experiential Education and E-Learning**

A crucial component of a parasitologist's training is the ability to correctly identify the parasite species that is contributing to animal or plant diseases. Digitized images from prepared slides of parasitic protozoa and helminths will be studied. In addition, selected material from traditional lab manuals which illustrate parasite diversity, structure and function will be posted on the course website. Parasite cell, tissue and organ structure will be identified, described and related to functional adaptations of a parasitic lifestyle. You are expected to know all aspects of the life cycles (specific hosts, mode of transmission, pathology and diseases resulting from infection, treatments for diseases and interventions to halt transmission). The Parasite ID tests will be in the format of a "bell-ringer"- images of parasites will be delivered through eClass and you will have to identify selected parasites which we have studied. In addition, you will be expected to identify specific anatomic structures associated with each parasite and know their functions.

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**Other Information**

**Grading:** The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

(For a full description of the York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar) [https://calendars.students.yorku.ca/2021-2022/grades-and-grading-schemes](https://calendars.students.yorku.ca/2021-2022/grades-and-grading-schemes)
- **PARASITE IDENTIFICATION TESTS**: You will have THREE Parasite ID tests during the term. The first ID test will be based on the posted material about PROTOZOA, the second ID test will be based on the PLATYHELMINTHES and the third ID test will be based on the NEMATODA. The Parasite ID tests will be a “bell-ringer” type test. The **ID tests will be delivered through eClass and you will have 60 minutes to complete the test. You will not receive full marks if you incorrectly identify the parasite and its stage, parasite structure or if your answer is misspelled.**

- **MISSED PARASITE ID TESTS or MIDTERM**: If you miss a Parasite ID test or the Midterm, the weight of the missed evaluation will automatically be transferred to the Final Exam. **THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP TESTS IN THIS COURSE.**

- **PEER-REVIEWED RESEARCH SUMMARY ASSIGNMENT**: If you do not submit the peer-reviewed research summary assignment, you will receive a **ZERO** for this evaluation. The weight of this assignment **WILL NOT BE TRANSFERRED TO THE FINAL EXAM.** This policy applies to everyone in the course.

- **GRADED TESTS/EXAMS**: If you believe that a written answer on a test was marked incorrectly, you must submit a written rationale for remarking within 1 week of the evaluation being made available to you. Remarketing can result in the mark being raised, confirmed or lowered. In order to be fair and consistent with the entire class, individual grades are not negotiable. I cannot provide “extra credit” assignments. Marks for assignments and tests will not be “rounded”. Contact the course director about marks ONLY if there is a clear error in your mark (calculation, clerical, etc.) as soon as possible at smukai@yorku.ca. It is highly unlikely that you will receive a response regarding any other mark-related queries.

- **DEFERRED STANDING FOR FINAL EXAM**: Students who do not write the Final Exam during the December 2021 examination period but have completed all other course components by the scheduled dates, must submit a Deferred Standing Agreement (DSA) form downloaded at [https://secure.students.yorku.ca/pdf/final-exam-assignment-deferred-standing-agreement.pdf](https://secure.students.yorku.ca/pdf/final-exam-assignment-deferred-standing-agreement.pdf). It is Senate Policy that "Normal requests for deferred standing must be communicated within one week following a missed examination, or on the last day to submit course work". Students that do not submit a signed DSA form will have to petition to write the final exam. Please check out the Registrar’s Office Deferred Standing FAQs [https://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/deferred-standing](https://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/deferred-standing).

- **ACADEMIC HONESTY**: Numerous students in Faculty of Science courses have been charged with academic misconduct when materials they uploaded to third party repository sites (e.g. Course Hero, One Class, etc.) were taken and used by unknown students in later offerings of the course. The Faculty’s Committee on Examinations and Academic Standards (CEAS) found in these cases that the burden of proof in a charge of aiding and abetting had been met, since the uploading students had been found in all cases to be wilfully blind to the reasonable likelihood of supporting plagiarism in this manner. Accordingly, to avoid this risk, students are urged not to upload their work to these sites. **Whenever a student submits work obtained through Course Hero or One Class, the submitting student will be charged with plagiarism and the uploading student will be charged with aiding and abetting.** Note also that exams, tests, and other assignments are the copyrighted works of the professor assigning them, whether copyright is overtly claimed or not (i.e. whether the © is used or not). Scanning these documents constitutes copying, which is a breach of Canadian copyright law, and the breach is aggravated when scans are shared or uploaded to third party repository sites.

- **RECORDING LECTURES**: Students are allowed to record lectures using their own voice recording devices. However, taking pictures or video recording of lecture slides or exam questions discussed in class will **NOT** be allowed (THE PREVIOUS STATEMENT APPLIES TO FACE-TO-FACE LECTURES). Lecture recordings, slides, assignments and test questions are the intellectual property of the course instructor and **CANNOT** be uploaded or distributed to any third-party sites (see above section regarding ACADEMIC HONESTY (THIS STATEMENT APPLIES TO BOTH REMOTE & FACE-TO-FACE LECTURES)).
• **E-MAIL ETIQUETTE:** Use your Yorku email address as other email addresses (e.g., Hotmail, Gmail) are filtered out by the university’s email system and do not always reach their intended recipient. Please **DO NOT** use the Moodle email function or respond to course announcement emails. I will try to respond within 1 business day, but this is not always possible. I typically do not check email between 6 pm and 9 am, nor on the weekends. **Subject line:** your name, student number and a brief indication of topic (e.g., ‘Question regarding host-parasite interaction’). **Emails without the required information will not receive a response.** Please include your NAME at the end of each email. I will not be able to offer individual tutoring by email. **If your question requires me to type up several paragraphs to essentially repeat what was posted, I may not be able to respond.** Please listen to the lecture recordings and take notes.

• **LETTERS OF REFERENCE:** Due to the number of students in the course and its remote delivery, I cannot write an informed reference letter for students applying to graduate and professional schools.

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### University Policies

#### Academic Honesty and Integrity
York students are required to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and they are subject to the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. [https://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/policies/academic-honesty-senate-policy-on/](https://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/policies/academic-honesty-senate-policy-on/)

The Policy affirms the responsibility of faculty members to foster acceptable standards of academic conduct and of the student to abide by such standards.

There is also an academic integrity website with comprehensive information about academic honesty and how to find resources at York to help improve students’ research and writing skills, and cope with University life. Students are expected to review the materials on the Academic Integrity website at [https://spark.library.yorku.ca/academic-integrity-what-is-academic-integrity/](https://spark.library.yorku.ca/academic-integrity-what-is-academic-integrity/)

#### Access/Disability
York University is committed to principles of respect, inclusion and equality of all persons with disabilities across campus. The University provides services for students with disabilities (including physical, medical, learning and psychiatric disabilities) needing accommodation related to teaching and evaluation methods/materials. These services are made available to students in all Faculties and programs at York University.

Students in need of these services are asked to register with disability services as early as possible to ensure that appropriate academic accommodation can be provided with advance notice. You are encouraged to schedule a time early in the term to meet with each professor to discuss your accommodation needs. Please note that registering with disabilities services and discussing your needs with your professors is necessary to avoid any impediment to receiving the necessary academic accommodations to meet your needs.

**Additional information is available at the following websites:**
- Counselling & Disability Services [https://accessibility.students.yorku.ca/](https://accessibility.students.yorku.ca/)
- Counselling & Disability Services at Glendon [https://www.glendon.yorku.ca/counselling/](https://www.glendon.yorku.ca/counselling/)
- York Accessibility Hub [https://accessibilityhub.info.yorku.ca/](https://accessibilityhub.info.yorku.ca/)

#### Ethics Review Process
York students are subject to the York University **Policy for the Ethics Review Process for Research Involving Human Participants.** In particular, students proposing to undertake research involving human participants (e.g., interviewing the director of a company or government agency, having students complete a questionnaire, etc.) are required to submit an **Application for Ethical Approval of Research Involving Human Participants** at least one month before you plan to begin the research. If you are in doubt as to whether this requirement applies to you, contact your Course Director immediately.
**Religious Observance Accommodation**
York University is committed to respecting the religious beliefs and practices of all members of the community, and making accommodations for observances of special significance to adherents https://registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/religious-accommodation-guidelines-2021-2022

Should any of the dates specified in this syllabus for an in-class test or examination pose such a conflict for you, contact the Course Director within the first three weeks of class. Similarly, should an assignment to be completed in a lab, practicum placement, workshop, etc., scheduled later in the term pose such a conflict, contact the Course director immediately. Please note that to arrange an alternative date or time for an examination scheduled in the formal examination periods (December and April/May), students must complete an Examination Accommodation Form, which can be obtained from Student Client Services, Student Services Centre or online at https://secure.students.yorku.ca/pdf/religious-accommodation-agreement-final-examinations.pdf

**Student Conduct in Academic Situations**
Students and instructors are expected to maintain a professional relationship characterized by courtesy and mutual respect. Moreover, it is the responsibility of the instructor to maintain an appropriate academic atmosphere in the classroom and other academic settings, and the responsibility of the student to cooperate in that endeavour. Further, the instructor is the best person to decide, in the first instance, whether such an atmosphere is present in the class. The policy and procedures governing disruptive and/or harassing behaviour by students in academic situations is available at - http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/disruptive-andor-harassing-behaviour-in-academic-situations-senate-policy/