ORIGINAL COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: September 1, 2002
REVISED COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: September 2019
COURSE TO BE REVIEWED (six years after UEC approval)**:** September 2024
Course outline form version: 10/27/2017

OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE FORM

Note: The University reserves the right to amend course outlines as needed without notice.

Course Code and Number: BIO 420	**Number of Credits:** 3 Course credit policy (105)

Course Full Title: Special Topics in Biology
Course Short Title:
(Transcripts only display 30 characters. Departments may recommend a short title if one is needed. If left blank, one will be assigned.)

Faculty: Faculty of Science	**Department (or program if no department):** Biology

Calendar Description:

Students will have an opportunity for an in-depth investigation of specialist areas in biology, under the guidance of an expert in the field. Students must check with the Biology department to determine course availability and content area for a particular semester.

Prerequisites (or NONE):	Any three BIO courses numbered 200 or above, or instructor's permission.
Corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):	NONE
Pre/corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):	

Antirequisite Courses *(Cannot be taken for additional credit.)*
Former course code/number:
Cross-listed with:
Dual-listed with:
Equivalent course(s):
(If offered in the previous five years, antirequisite course(s) will be included in the calendar description as a note that students with credit for the antirequisite course(s) cannot take this course for further credit.)

Typical Structure of Instructional Hours

Lecture/seminar hours	45
Tutorials/workshops	
Supervised laboratory hours	
Experiential (field experience, practicum, internship, etc.)	
Supervised online activities	
Other contact hours:	
Total hours	**45**

Labs to be scheduled independent of lecture hours: ☐ No ☐ Yes

Special Topics
This course is offered with different topics:
☐ No ☒ Yes *(Double-click on box to select it as checked.)*
If yes, different lettered courses may be taken for credit:
☐ No ☐ Yes, repeat(s) ☒ Yes, no limit
(The specific topic will be recorded when offered.)

Transfer Credit
Transfer credit already exists: *(See **bctransferguide.ca**.)*
☒ No ☐ Yes
Submit revised outline for rearticulation:
☒ No ☐ Yes *(If yes, fill in transfer credit form.)*

Grading System
☒ Letter Grades ☐ Credit/No Credit

Expected Frequency of Course Offerings:
As interest and instructors are available.
(Every semester, Fall only, annually, every other Fall, etc.)

Department / Program Head or Director: Anthony Stea	**Date approved:**	April 2018
Faculty Council approval	**Date approved:**	April 27, 2018
Dean/Associate VP: Lucy Lee	**Date approved:**	April 27, 2018
Campus-Wide Consultation (CWC)	**Date of posting:**	n/a
Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval	**Date of meeting:**	September 28, 2018

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe concepts and techniques in the specialized area in biology under the guidance of an expert in that area.
- Analyze scientific data from the specialized area in biology.
- Communicate effectively by presenting summaries of recent scientific advances in the field of study.
- Evaluate alternative viewpoints presented in the discussion of the specialist area. This involves critical evaluation of the literature, problem definition, historical context, methods of investigation, theory, and research results.

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

☒ Yes ☐ No, PLAR cannot be awarded for this course because

Typical Instructional Methods *(Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.; may vary at department's discretion.)*

Lectures which may include: demonstrations, small group discussions, audiovisual presentations, the use of models, videos, and charts. May include group or individual presentations summarizing recent research in the field of study.

NOTE: The following sections may vary by instructor. Please see course syllabus available from the instructor.

Typical Text(s) and Resource Materials *(If more space is required, download Supplemental Texts and Resource Materials form.)*

	Author (surname, initials)	Title (article, book, journal, etc.)	Current ed.	Publisher	Year
1.	Davies, N.B., Krebs, J.R., and West S.A.	An Introduction to Behavioral Ecology	4th	Wiley-Blackwell	2012
2.	Dauncey, E.A., Larsson S.	Plants that kill		Princeton University	2018
3.			☐		
4.			☐		
5.			☐		

Required Additional Supplies and Materials *(Software, hardware, tools, specialized clothing, etc.)*

Typical Evaluation Methods and Weighting

Final exam:	35%	Assignments:	20%	Field experience:	%	Portfolio:	%
Midterm exam:	25%	Project report:		Practicum:	%	Seminar presentation:	10%
Quizzes/tests:	10%	Lab work:	%	Shop work:	%	Total:	100%

Details (if necessary):

Typical Course Content and Topics

This course is designed to take advantage of biological expertise within the department and in the community.

Examples of topics offered might be, but are not limited to, the following areas:

Behavioural Ecology: This course will give students an introduction to the functional and evolutionary aspects of animal behaviour. Throughout this course, we will examine how particular behaviours ultimately contribute to the survival and reproductive success of the organism, or rather, why particular behaviours are adaptive.

Plants and Drugs: This course will look at current and historical concepts in plant biochemistry and human interactions. Historical background and emphasis literature, art, music and other liberal arts subjects will be integrated into the topic. The course will have an emphasize on the plants and their products commonly grouped as plant poisons or drugs.