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Personnel

- **Instructor:** Ben Bolker (bolker@mcmaster.ca). General queries should be asked in the course forum on AtL. E-mail bolker@mcmaster.ca with private or specific queries; **please include “3SS3” in the subject and your Mac ID in the body of the e-mail.** Office hours LSB 336, Thurs. 1:30-2:30 PM; meetings during office hours are preferred but other times may be available by appointment. For more information about me, see my web page.
- **Course Co-ordinator:** Marvin Gunderman (gundermn@mcmaster.ca)
- **Teaching assistants:** Brian Alcock (brian.alcock@gmail.com), Ben Furman (benjamin.ls.furman@gmail.com), Lindsay Keegan (keeganlt@mcmaster.ca), Aaron Vogan (voganaa@mcmaster.ca)

Lectures

Tues, Thurs, Fri 2:30-3:20 PM in MDCL-1102.

Tutorials

- Tutorials start on Tuesday 14 Jan.
- For-credit assignments will be posted on Monday evenings and are due in the dropbox in LSB at **5 PM on Monday** the week after they are assigned. Not-for-credit assignments should not be put in the dropbox, but completing them is highly recommended.

Course material

- The course will cover the following topics: Population dynamics; Age structure and life history; Human population growth; Competition; Exploitation; Mutualism; Examples and applications.
- The primary course material is the lectures, and associated lecture notes, available on AtL
- It is recommended to print the lecture notes and bring them to class to make additional notes
- You will need an approved calculator for the tests; it is recommended that you bring this to class as well.
- You should install the free computer programmes R [http://www.r-project.org](http://www.r-project.org) and RStudio [http://www.rstudio.com/ide](http://www.rstudio.com/ide) on a computer that you will be able to work with.
- Additional readings will be made available on AtL.

Evaluation

- Assignments (10%)
- Two midterms, (50%; 25% each)
  - Fri 7 Feb and Fri 14 Mar, in class
- Final exam (40%)
  - Will be scheduled by the Registrar
• Response to in-class polls (2% extra credit)

• Midterms and final will be cumulative, but will emphasize new material more than already-tested material

Policies

Dates subject to change

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

Missing tests

Illnesses or other personal circumstances must be reported following the procedures laid out by the Associate Dean’s Office: http://www.science.mcmaster.ca/associatedean/. In most cases, missed tests will be addressed by reweighting the remaining tests. If you must miss a lecture, it is your responsibility to find out what was covered. The best way to do this is to borrow a classmate’s notes, read them over, and then ask your instructor if there is something that you do not understand.

Online component

We will be using the learning software Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may be visible to other students in the course. By taking this course you consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about this, please discuss them with the course instructor. Grades will be posted on AtL.

Academic Integrity

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty can result in serious consequences, including a notation on the transcript, or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty; for more information please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy at http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

Here are four common examples of academic dishonesty:

• Plagiarism: For example, the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.

• Improper collaboration: In this course, you are encouraged to discuss the assigned problems with other students in your class. However, when the work is not explicitly assigned as a group project you must write the solutions in your own words without referring to any other students’ work. The copying or even paraphrasing of anyone’s solutions will be considered academic dishonesty. For group projects, you will be asked to report your own assessment of how you contributed to the group’s work.

• Copying or using unauthorized aids in examinations: In this course you are not allowed to talk to or communicate in any way (e.g. pass notes) with anyone but the instructor or the invigilators during an examination.
• *Continuing to write once the announcement that the allotted time for a test or examination is over without the express consent of the instructor or one of the invigilators.*

If you have read this far, congratulations! Please send your TA an e-mail with the subject “3SS3 outline credit” to receive one point of credit for having followed instructions.

This outline will be linked from the course home page. However, it is your responsibility to check the course home page and syllabus regularly for further announcements, course handouts, assigned work and their due dates, information about test dates and locations when this information becomes available, downloadable course related material, etc. Recorded marks for tests and assignments will be posted on Avenue. You should check these once they become available and bring any discrepancies to the attention of the instructor, the IA, or your TA as soon as possible.