Unit 2 – Biology Course Outline

2012 Fall
African Savannah Biology (3)
BIOL370
Arts 120 Mon, weds, fri 10.30-11.30a

Professor:
Name: Dr. W. Bates
Office: Sci 155
Phone: (250-807-9775)
Email: William.bates@ubc.ca

Office Hours: (by appointment)

Course Description:
Analysis of the ecological, developmental, and evolutionary mechanisms responsible for the diversity of African savannah life including early hominins. [3-0-0]

(Biol370) (3) (African savannah biology)
Prerequisite: (Biol 203)

Course Objectives:

Students will understand African savannah biology after taking this course.

Course Format:

Lecture based course with student presentations. Students will do a small research project and write up a formal report. Course evaluation method is given below.

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Required Materials:

Papers for BIOL 370 African Savannah Biology:


Nikaido et al. 1999. Phyllogenetic relationships among cetartiodactyls based on insertions of short and long interspersed elements: Hippos are the closest relatives of whales. PNAS 96, 10261-10266.


Gaeth et al. 1999. The developing renal, reproductive and respiratory systems of the African elephant suggest an aquatic ancestry. PNAS 96, 555-5558.


Cerling et al. 2011. Woody cover and hominin environments in the past 6 million years. Nature 476


Course Evaluation:

Test #1 25% Oct 19
Test #2 25% Nov 23
Research paper 40% (due last day of classes)
Presentations: 10% (last week of classes)

Final grades will be based on the evaluations listed above and the final grade will be assigned according to the standardized grading system outlined in the UBC Okanagan Calendar.

Missed Assignments and Exams:

From UBC Okanagan Academic Calendar/Policies and Regulations/Academic Concession

“Students who, because of unforeseen events, are absent during the term and are unable to complete tests or other graded work, should normally discuss with their instructors how they can make up for missed work, according to written guidelines given to them at the start of the course. Instructors are not required to make allowance for any missed test or incomplete work that is not satisfactorily accounted for. If ill
health is an issue, students are encouraged to seek attention from a health professional. Campus Health and Counselling will normally provide documentation only to students who have been seen previously at these offices for treatment or counselling specific to conditions associated with their academic difficulties. Students who feel that requests for consideration have not been dealt with fairly by their instructors may take their concerns to [Dr. Joyce Boon, Unit Head, Biology].

(Please detail the procedure for missing a lab or assignment here)

(Example of written Guidelines for exams and assignments: Students may be excused from laboratories only with a physician’s certificate verifying illness or other supporting documents for a compassionate leave. If a student is unable to complete a laboratory or a laboratory exam for a good and verifiable reason, the marks may be redistributed. Please talk to your TA or the lab coordinator as soon as possible if ill or if you will be missing a laboratory or a lab exam. (Holidays are not acceptable reasons for missing labs).

Tentative Lectures:
Weeks 1 and 2: Introduction to African savannahs; role of fire ecology; climate; survey of flora and fauna.
Weeks 3 and 4: The Afrotheria; Evolutionary phylogenetics of a distinct African clade
Weeks 5 and 6: African Elephant EvoDevo, behaviour, reproductive phenology, conservation
Weeks 7 and 8: African Buffalo reproductive phenology and behaviour
Weeks 9 and 10: Lions, Wild Dogs, Hyenas, Cheetahs and Mongoose
Weeks 11 and 12: Human evolution
Week 13: Student presentations in class

Final Exam: No Final exam

Repeat Course Policy:
The student may opt to repeat the failed portion of the course if, and only if, the following requirements are met:

- If the student failed the laboratory portion of the course, but achieved a grade of at least C (60%) in the lecture portion of the course, the student may opt to repeat only the laboratory portion.

- If the student failed the lecture portion of the course, but achieved a grade of at least C (60%) in the laboratory portion of the course, the student may opt to repeat only the lecture portion.

- The course must be taken again within two years of the start of the term in which the student was originally enrolled in the course (e.g. if the course was originally taken in the Fall term of 2009, ...
the student has until the Fall of 2011 to repeat the course).

- In situations where the weighting of the lab/lecture component changes from year to year (e.g. 30% lab, 70% lecture in one year; 40% lab, 60% lecture in another year), it will be at the discretion of the instructor teaching the course the second time to decide the weighting in the calculation of the new grade.

- The student must complete (including all required signatures) the “Repeat course” form and submit it to the Unit Administrative Assistant (Ms. Jennifer Janok) by the last day of the late registration period.

Please note that the university policy is that the student must register and pay for the complete course, and not just a portion of the course.

**Academic Integrity:**

The academic enterprise is founded on honesty, civility, and integrity. As members of this enterprise, all students are expected to know, understand, and follow the codes of conduct regarding academic integrity. At the most basic level, this means submitting only original work done by you and acknowledging all sources of information or ideas and attributing them to others as required. This also means you should not cheat, copy, or mislead others about what is your work. Violations of academic integrity (i.e., misconduct) lead to the break down of the academic enterprise, and therefore serious consequences arise and harsh sanctions are imposed. For example, incidences of plagiarism or cheating may result in a mark of zero on the assignment or exam and more serious consequences may apply if the matter is referred to the President’s Advisory Committee on Student Discipline. Careful records are kept in order to monitor and prevent recurrences.

A more detailed description of academic integrity, including the policies and procedures, may be found at:

[http://okanagan.students.ubc.ca/calendar/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,0](http://okanagan.students.ubc.ca/calendar/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,0)

If you have any questions about how academic integrity applies to this course, please consult with your professor.

**Disability Assistance:**

If you require disability-related accommodations to meet the course objectives, please contact the Coordinator of Disability Resources located in the Student Development and
Advising area in the University Centre building. For more information about Disability Resources or academic accommodations, please visit the website at:

http://web.ubc.ca/okanagan/students/disres/welcome.html

**Equity, Human Rights, Discrimination and Harassment:**

UBC Okanagan is a place where every student, staff and faculty member should be able to study and work in an environment that is free from human rights-based discrimination and harassment. Under UBC’s Policy 3 on Discrimination and Harassment, UBC prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of the following grounds: age, ancestry, colour, family status, marital status, physical or mental disability, place of origin, political belief, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or unrelated criminal conviction.

If you require assistance related to an issue of equity, discrimination or harassment, please contact the Equity Office or your administrative head of unit.

**UBC Okanagan Equity Advisor:** ph. 250-807-9291; email equity.ubco@ubc.ca  
Web: www.ubc.ca/okanagan/equity  
Unit Equity Representatives:  
http://www.ubc.ca/okanagan/equity/programs/equityreps/unitcontacts.html