

Hello All!

Firstly, welcome back to a new year of Biology! We hope that everyone is safe and has adjusted to our current 'new normal' – a socially/physically distanced way of going on with our life and learning.

Our first priority is your health, safety, and academic progress, and we want to ensure that you stay healthy and safe, along with your loved ones. Therefore, all Biology undergraduate courses will be online in 2020WT1 (i.e., Fall term) and there will be no face to face Biology courses. Note that we are still waiting to hear about WT2, and will update you as soon as possible on this.

As we are getting close to the start of registration time for 2020W courses, here are some important information about Biology courses. In addition, please consult the information posted by Science Advising on general topics related to 2020W registrations, expectations, resources, etc (<https://usend.ubc.ca/sendy/w/sCg763t3CuvQdW3XZWzIIQkA>).

Year standings and registration dates will be released one week before the assigned registration period. Inquiries about year promotions should be emailed to [advising@science.ubc.ca](mailto:advising@science.ubc.ca).

- 4<sup>th</sup> years June 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>
- 3<sup>rd</sup> years July 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>
- 2<sup>nd</sup> years July 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>

To help ensure your academic progress, we are carefully planning course availabilities to accommodate as many of the different scenarios as we can. We are conscious of students living in different time zones, and will be offering some aspects of courses (lecture sections, tutorial sections, office hours) to accommodate our students in different time zones, as much as possible. Details on most courses will be available to see by June 17<sup>th</sup> (check [courses.students.ubc.ca](https://courses.students.ubc.ca) for the latest updates).

We are adjusting our course offerings and timings based on the following **general principles**:

- We want to make sure that you feel engaged and included in the online teaching environment.
- We want have effective online teaching based on the evidence on best teaching practices and based on student voices.
- We want to keep everyone safe during the continuing pandemic.

### **Lab courses being offered in 2020W**

Term 1: The lab courses that are being offered will be online during Term 1. Lab courses that cannot be effectively moved online will be cancelled until it is safe to run in-person classes.

- 1st and 2nd year Lab courses offered: BIOL 140, BIOL 203, BIOL 205, BIOL 209
  - 3rd and 4th year Lab courses offered: BIOL 306, BIOL 341, BIOL 342\*, BIOL 351, BIOL 402
- \* In Term 1, 25% of seats in BIOL 342 will be open to Biology students (the rest will be restricted to students in CMS)

Term 2: The lab courses being offered are listed below – we do not yet know if they will be online or in-person.

- 1st and 2nd year Lab courses offered: BIOL 140, 204, 210
  - 3rd and 4th year Lab courses offered: BIOL 326, BIOL 341, BIOL 342\*, BIOL 352, BIOL 403, BIOL 404
- \* In Term 2, 70% of seats in BIOL 342 will be open to Biology students (the rest will be restricted to students in CMS).

The following Lab courses may not be offered in Term 2 if the COVID19 pandemic situation prevents in-person classes:

BIOL 331, 337, 340, 363, 409

### Changes to lab requirements for graduation

- (i) For graduation, **students who are officially in Year 3 and 4 in Sept. 2020**, will need to complete **only** one upper-level lab course (i.e. if you are a Year 3 or 4 student and have already completed one of the upper-lab courses you do not need to complete another). If you are in Year 3 or 4 and have not yet completed one upper-year lab course, then the following are available: BIOL 306, BIOL 326, BIOL 341, BIOL 342, BIOL 351, BIOL 352, BIOL 402, BIOL 403, BIOL 404.
- (ii) To make up for the one less lab requirement, students will need to complete an additional 3 credit BIOL course.
- (iii) A BIOL 448 project may also be acceptable, but must be pre-approved by the Associate Head of Biology (please send email to [tromba@biology.ubc.ca](mailto:tromba@biology.ubc.ca)).

### Modified and new courses

- (i) **BIOL 331** – is modified to BIOL 330 in 2020W; this developmental biology course will be offered as a new lecture-only format for 3 credits. The corresponding lab component has been canceled for 2020W.
- (ii) Changes to our **upper-level Physiology<sup>1</sup>** courses:
  - **BIOL 361** (Neural and Muscular Physiology) has been discontinued.
  - We have reorganized and expanded the material from BIOL 361 to create three exciting new courses:
    - BIOL 370 (Principles of Muscle Physiology and Energetics) - offered in Term 1
    - BIOL 371 (Principles of Neurobiology I) – offered in T1 and T2
    - BIOL 372 (Principles of Neurobiology II) – offered in T2

(1Please note that if you have already completed BIOL 361, you cannot also get credit for BIOL 370 or BIOL 371, but you can get credit for BIOL 372. BIOL 361 is an acceptable prerequisite for BIOL 372 in 2020W.)
- iii) BIOL 403 (Microbial Ecology) – a new course in our books for Term 2, and will be accepted as an upper-level lab course.

**Honours students:** As a COVID year concession, 27 credits will be an acceptable minimum for the upcoming year, 2020W. You will still need to complete degree within 5 years.

Please consult the Biology webpage for further Biology course registration information by visiting <http://www.biology.ubc.ca/courses/biology-course-registration-information/>.

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