

# BIOL 488B

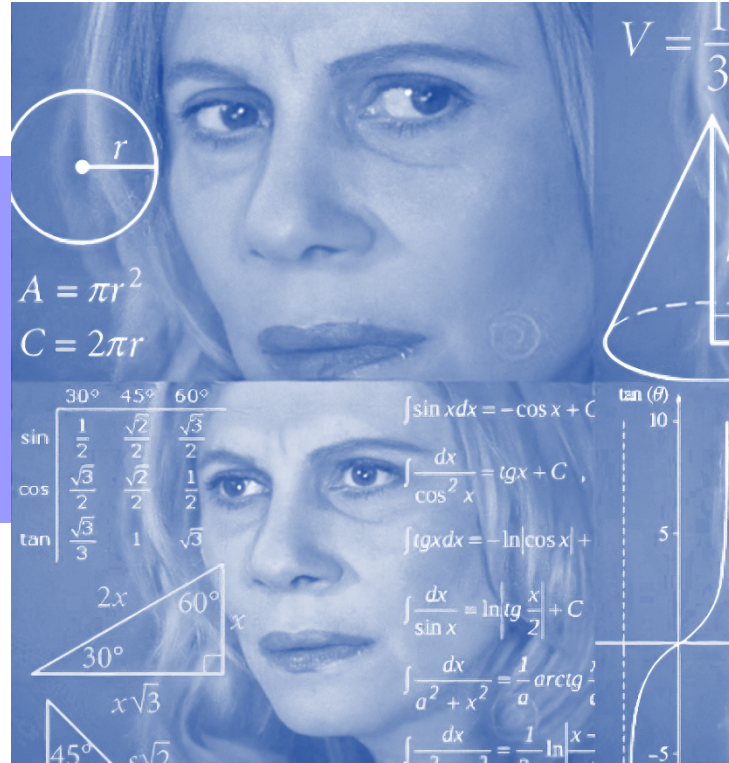
## A Beginner's Introduction to Theoretical Ecology

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

A 'theory' is an idea of how the natural world works. In order to test a theory, one must understand it, at least well enough to generate reasonable hypotheses, predictions, and experiments that meet critical assumptions. However, many theories in ecology are represented using math, which can create a barrier for scientists with less mathematical training, as is commonly the case in many biology programs. This course is meant to introduce students to theoretical ecology using an accessible approach.

### COURSE STRUCTURE

We will begin by discussing different goals and approaches to theory and the different ways in which theory is used in science. We will then work through examples of specific theories in ecology to build skills and comfort working through equations and deciphering their biological meaning. This course will involve a mix of lecturing, discussion, and in-class activities (laptop required).



### THIS COURSE IS FOR...

Students interested in theory who feel like math is a barrier. **Note: Students who already feel comfortable with math and are looking for a more advanced class should take Biomathematics (BIOL301).**

### AT A GLANCE

When: 2024/25 (Sept-Dec)

Lecture & Location:

Tue & Thur 11am – 12:30pm  
SWING 107

Credits: 3

Pre-requisites: 3<sup>rd</sup> year standing, BIOL230

### INSTRUCTOR



Rachel Germain  
Assistant Professor  
UBC Zoology

