

University of Victoria
BIOLOGY 248
Topics in Organismal Biology
Section A01 2021 CRN 10392

Lecture: CUN 146
Tue, Wed, & Fri 11:30 am – 12:20 pm

Instructors:

Dr. Louise R. Page lpage@uvic.ca
(course coordinator)
Zoom office hour for Louise Page: Thursdays 12:30 to 1:30 pm
Zoom link:
<https://uvic.zoom.us/j/86127387918?pwd=aG9nQTF3cUN0bUoxbWdoRUlqdW9lUT09>

Dr. David Punzalan davidpunzalan@uvic.ca

Dr. John Dower dower@uvic.ca

We acknowledge and respect the lək̓ʷəŋən peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Prerequisites: BIOL 184 & 186 (minimum grade of C+ in BIOL 186)
Not open to students with 3rd or 4th year standing

Covid-19 and In-person Classes:

Although course instruction at UVic during Fall 2021 will be in-person within classrooms, we are still in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic and we must all take special precautions to keep everyone safe. Students attending in-person classes must wear a face mask. For further information about Public Health policies relating to return to campus follow this link:

<https://www.uvic.ca/return-to-campus/health-safety/index.php>

If you contact Covid-19, you may choose to inform Louise Page by email. She will put you in touch with resources. Your personal information will be strictly protected.

Course Content:

BIOL 248 was created to provide a link between introductory information about whole organisms given in BIOL 184/6 and the more in-depth treatment of organismal biology provided by 300 level Biology courses. The instructors of BIOL 248 will show how studies beginning at the level of the whole organism have opened the door to a host of intriguing hypotheses and discoveries, which have been investigated further using experimental tools of molecular & cell biology, ethology, physiology, and other disciplines. The course will also aim to show how

insights from studies of whole organisms have contributed to an understanding of evolutionary processes and ecological systems.

The course will bring together diverse expertise from three faculty members within the Biology Department. Each instructor will give a block of lectures in an area related to their research interests. They will provide appropriate background for topics they cover and will introduce students to important concepts and new insights related to these topics. An emphasis will be placed on the methodology, results, and interpretation of studies from the primary scientific literature.

Communicating with Instructors:

Your instructors welcome your questions. Simple questions not addressed during a lecture can be handled by an email sent to the appropriate instructor. For more complex issues, please arrange a one-on-one conversation with an instructor by email. The instructor may invite you to a meeting in the instructor's office or may set-up a Zoom meeting for the purpose of discussing the issue. Your instructors aim to respond to email messages within two working days, Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm.

Resources:

- There is no textbook for BIOL 248
- **Brightspace course site for BIOL 248.** This site will provide access to important material relevant to BIOL 248, including recorded lectures, PowerPoint slides, and a drop box for submitting your essay assignment (described below).

To access the Brightspace website for BIOL 248 do the following:

- Type **bright.uvic.ca** into your web browser (Google Chrome recommended)
 - Enter your NetLink ID and Password and press 'Sign in'
 - Scroll down the displayed page and select Fall 2021 BIOL 248 A01 (10392)
 - From the Navbar along the top of the displayed page, select "Content"
 - The recorded lectures will appear within the appropriate Module for each block of lectures (but see **Recorded Lectures** below).
- **Recorded Lectures.** It is essential that you do not attend a lecture in person if you are feeling ill or if you are self-isolating due to a possible exposure to the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus, which causes Covid-19. The live lectures presented to the class will be recorded and will be accessible for viewing through the Brightspace site for BIOL 248.

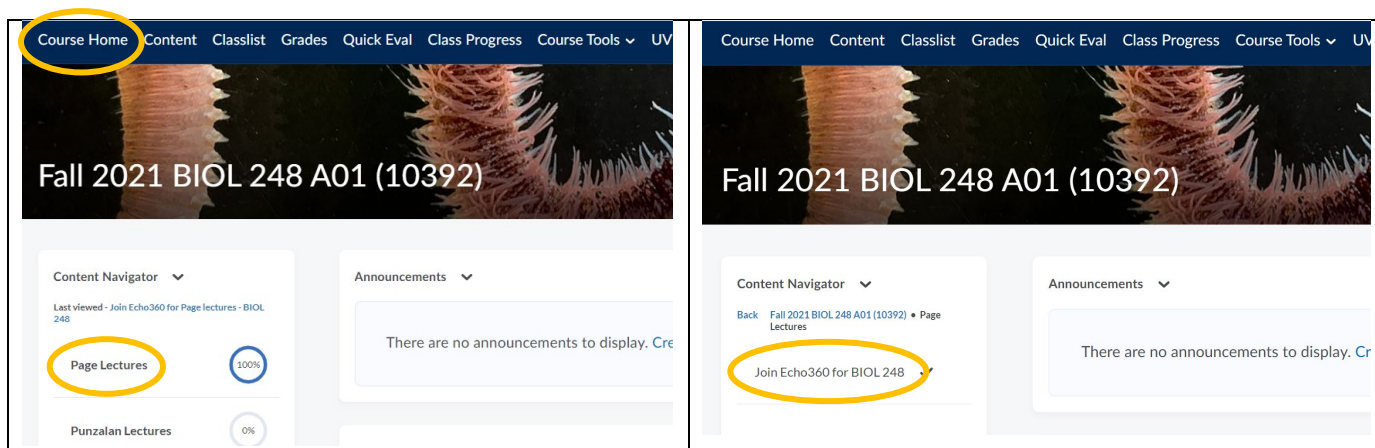
The live lecture recordings will include a Webcam feed of the instructor speaking (or chalk illustrations made on the blackboard) and a display of the PowerPoint slides accompanying

the lecture. There may be a lag time of 1 or 2 days following the lecture before the recorded lecture is available within Brightspace.

IMPORTANT: The video platform for the lecture recordings will be Echo360. To access the lecture recordings posted by each of your three instructors, you must first establish a relationship within Brightspace between you and Echo360.

To access the recorded lectures, enter Brightspace (<https://bright.uvic.ca>) and select FALL 2021 BIOL 248. From the Course Home page, click on “Page Lectures” from the left side bar (as shown in the left image panel below). Then click on “Join Echo360 for BIOL 248” (as shown in the right image panel below).

Every student **MUST** enter Echo 360 using this course link at least once for access to the recorded lectures. Subsequently, you can just click on the video link for each individual lecture.



Please be aware that our classes are being recorded to allow students to view lectures that they're not able to attend. Students who have privacy concerns can contact the instructor to limit personal information shared in the recording. If you have other questions or concerns regarding class recording and privacy please contact privacyinfo@uvic.ca.

Drop/Add Deadlines:

You must not assume that you will be automatically dropped from a course that you do not attend. The following is a list of some important dates regarding adding or dropping a course.

- **Tue. Sep. 21, 2021.** Last day for 100% reduction of tuition fee for a dropped course.
- **Fri. Sep. 24, 2021.** Last day for adding a 1st term course. After this date, course additions must be done by an Undergraduate Course Change Form sent to the Academic Advising Centre. This must be accompanied by a signed note from the course coordinator indicating that the student has been attending the class since before the course addition deadline.
- **Tue. Oct. 12, 2021.** Last day for 50% reduction of tuition fee for a dropped course.
- **Sun. Oct. 31, 2021.** Last day for dropping a course without penalty of failure.

Assessment of Performance

Performance will be assessed on the basis of three exams and an essay assignment. Exams #1 & 2 will be scheduled during regular lecture time slots; exam #3 will be scheduled during the final exam period.

Exam #1: Tue Oct 05, 2021; Page lectures #1-10.....	23%
Exam #2: Tue Nov 02, 2021; Page lectures #11-13 + Punzalan lectures #1-8.....	26%
Exam #3: final exam period; Page lectures #14-16 + Dower lectures #1-8.....	26%
Essay Assignment (due Mon Nov 15, 2021 @ 5:00 pm).....	25%

If a single exam is missed, the final grade will be calculated by proportional averaging of all other grades. If two or three exams are missed, the student must make arrangements with the course coordinator to write an alternative set of exams before a final grade is submitted.

Final exams for the Faculty of Science, Fall term 2021, extend from Thursday December 9th to Monday December 20th, inclusive. Exam #3 in BIOL 248 will be scheduled during this final exam period.

Course Grade and Academic Transcript: Grades for all UVic courses are submitted as percentiles. A student's academic transcript will include the percentile grade and a letter grade plus the class average and the number of students registered in the course at the time of the final exam. Percentiles will be rounded to the nearest whole number; a grade of xx.5 will be rounded up. Percentile grades will be converted to letter grades on the student's academic transcript according to the table given below.

A+	90 – 100%	B+	77 – 79%	C+	65 – 69%
A	85 – 89%	B	73 – 76%	C	60 – 64%
A-	80 – 84%	B-	70 – 72%	D	50 – 59%

<p>F (Fail) is a grade less than 50% No supplemental exams will be offered for this course</p>
--

Essay Assignment

A goal of the instructors for BIOL 248 is to promote scientific literacy among students in the course. Scientific literacy is the ability to understand and critically evaluate information provided in the primary scientific literature and to effectively communicate scientific information.

Therefore, an important component of BIOL 248 will be the opportunity to write a scientific essay on a topic relating to organismal biology, which will be worth 25% of your final grade. This project will lead you into published scientific literature in a research area in Biology and will encourage you to critically analyze data and controversies relating to that topic.

The essay assignment is described in detail in a document uploaded to the “Essay Assignment” module of Brightspace (click on “Content” in the blue Navbar and select “ Essay Assignment” from the left side bar).

You will write an essay on your choice of one of nine essay topics that will be provided by your three instructors. Each topic will incorporate an aspect that is controversial. Completing this essay will involve a search through the published scientific literature for information relating to the topic, integration of the information for the purpose of crafting a clearly-written essay on the topic, and a science-based opinion about controversial aspects of the topic.

The essay should be a maximum of six pages (Times Roman 12 pt. font, double line spacing), not including references. Submissions will be uploaded into a drop box set-up within Brightspace.

- Essay topics will be posted within Brightspace on **Friday, September 10, 2021**.
- Each student in BIOL 248 will need to sign-up for an essay topic and there are five sign-up slots available for each topic.
- Sign-up for an essay topic will begin on **Monday, September 20, 2021 at 8:00 am**. To sign-up for a topic, submit an email providing a ranked list of three essay topics to lpape@uvic.ca.
- Sign-up will be on a first come basis. Students attempting to sign-up before Sep 20 at 8 am will be moved to the back of the line after 12 noon on Sep 20, 2021.
- **Due date for the essay is Monday, November 15, 2021 at 5 pm**. Essays will be submitted to a drop box that will be set-up for this purpose in the Brightspace site for BIOL 248.
- Late submission of essays will be penalized at 20% per day beyond the submission deadline. Valid excuses for an academic concession in the case of a late submission of the essay will need to be extraordinary, given that students will have almost two months to complete this assignment.

Lecture Schedule – see following page

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Course Intro Meet Instructors	9	10 Page #1 Essay topics posted in Brightspace	11
12	13	14 Page #2	15 Page #3	16	17 Page #4	18
19	20 ESSAY SIGN-UP lpape@uvic.ca begin 8 am	21 Page #5	22 Page #6	23	24 Page #7	25
26	27	28 Page #8	29 Page #9	30 Truth & Reconciliation		

October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Page #10	2
3	4	5 EXAM #1 PAGE #1-10	6 Page #11	7	8 Page #12	9
10	11 Thanksgiving	12 Page #13	13 Punzalan #1	14	15 Punzalan #2	16
17	18	19 Punzalan #3	20 Punzalan #4	21	22 Punzalan #5	23
24	25	26 Punzalan #6	27 Punzalan #7	28	29 Punzalan #8	30
31 Last day for withdrawal						

November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 EXAM #2 PAGE #11-13 PUNZALAN #1-8	3 Page #14	4	5 Page #15	6
7	8	9 Page #16	10 READING BREAK	11 READING BREAK	12 READING BREAK	13
14	15 Essay Due before 5 pm	16 Dower #1	17 Dower #2	18	19 Dower #3	20
21	22	23 Dower #4	24 Dower #5	25	26 Dower #6	27
28	29	30 Dower #7				

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Dower #8	2	3 Remembrance Ceremony Class Cancelled	4

Exam #3 will be scheduled during final exam period (Page #14-16 + Dower #1-8)

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Medical documentation for absences

No medical documentation for short-term absences is required for the Fall 2021 term (approved by Senate).

Academic Integrity

Students must abide by academic regulations as set out in the university calendar. They must observe standards of 'scholarly integrity' especially regarding plagiarism and cheating. The University Senate has approved changes to the Policy on Academic Integrity in the academic calendar to clarify that, “the unauthorized use of an Editor is prohibited, unless the instructor grants explicit written authorization”. This regulation change is effective May 2017. Please refer to Academic Integrity policy here: <https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2020-09/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html>

Copyright

All course content and materials are made available by instructors for educational purposes and for the exclusive use of students registered in their class. The material is protected under copyright law, even if not marked with a ©. Any further use or distribution of materials to others requires the written permission of the instructor, except under fair dealing or another exception in the Copyright Act. Violations may result in disciplinary action. [Resolution of Non-Academic Misconduct Allegations policy \(AC1300\)](#).

Mental Health and Wellbeing

A note to remind you to take care of yourself. Diminished mental health can interfere with optimal academic performance. Do your best to engage in self-care and maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester. This will help you achieve your goals and cope with stress. All of us benefit from support during times of struggle. You are not alone. The source of symptoms might be related to your course work; if so, please speak with me. However, problems with other parts of your life can also contribute to decreased academic performance. The **UVic Student Wellness Centre** <https://www.uvic.ca/student-wellness/> provides cost-free and confidential mental health services to help you manage personal challenges that impact your emotional or academic well-being.

Student Learning Support services

[Learn Anywhere](#) is the student support portal for a full range of student academic and support services. Services include: Centre for Academic Communication, Math & Stats Assistance Centre, Health Services, Library, and Computer Help Desk.

Centre for Accessible Learning

Students with special needs will be welcomed and accommodated in classes at UVic, provided those needs are registered through the Centre for Accessible Learning <https://uvic.ca/services/cal> (Campus Services Building, rm 150; phone 250-472-4947)