

BIOLOGY 415C – MYCOLOGY
COURSE SYLLABUS – FALL TERM 2026

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday; A01: 8:30 - 9:20 am, A02: 9:30-10:20
Cunningham 146

Course Instructor: Lise Nehring, MSc Email: lisenehring@uvic.ca

Course Description: The course will explore fungal taxonomy, ecology, and importance to humans including human and plant diseases, mycorrhizal associations, and ethnomycological uses.

Intended Learning Outcomes: Upon completing this course, the student should have an understanding of:

- Current taxonomy and phylogeny
- Fungal anatomy and morphology
- Fungal ecological strategies
- The impact of Fungi on global nutrient cycling
- Fungal pathology
- The link between indigenous cultures and the kingdom fungi

Proposed Course Topics

The list of topics is flexible and may be shortened or expanded due to time constraints and/or student interest. Individual lectures may include information from multiple of the topics below. Guest lectures from biology graduate students and community members may be included near the end of the term.

Topics covered will/may include:

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|---|--------------------------------|
| ● Slimemoulds | ● Major Figures in Mycology |
| ● Division Chytridiomycota | ● Fungi Ecology |
| ● Division Oomycota (water moulds) | ● Fungal Mythology |
| ● The Division formerly known as Zygomycota | ● Mycorrhizal Associations |
| ● Division Ascomycota | ● Fungal Parasites and Disease |
| ● Division Basidiomycota | ● Medicine and Drugs |
| ● History of Mycology | ● The mushrooms we eat |
| ● Fungal Anatomy | ● Marine mycology |
| ● Fungal Physiology | ● Ethnomycology |

Textbook: There is no official textbook for the course. Other reading may be recommended.

Optional: a field guide for identifying mushrooms and lichens.

Recommended: Mushrooms of British Columbia by Andy MacKinnon and Kem Luther
Mushrooms of Cascadia: An Illustrated Key by Michael Beug

We acknowledge and respect the Łək'wəḡən (Songhees and X̱sepsəm/Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands, and the Łək'wəḡən and W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Fungi forms a crucial part of our ecosystems and have been utilized by humans across the globe since antiquity. This course recognizes the role as stewards indigenous people hold for the land that we, and fungi, call home. Through this course, students will be able to learn a small part of the vast ethnomycological and indigenous uses of fungi, especially by the local peoples of British Columbia.

Evaluation:

Online Quizzes (2% each, 5 total)	10% total
Lichen Hunt Project	5%
Mushroom ID Collection Project	20%
Midterm 1	*20%
Midterm 2	*20%
Midterm 3 (during exam week)	*20%

*At the end of the term the midterm with the highest mark will be weighted 25%.

Midterm will be based on lecture material. All lecture midterms will be in-person, 'closed book', hard copy exams. Lecture quizzes will be timed on Brightspace and be 'closed book', but will be written outside of lecture time. Accommodations can be made for severe illness but an email must be sent within 24 hours of the midterm or earlier.

If one lecture midterm is missed, the higher of the two remaining midterms will be weighted as 35% and the other 30%. If two lecture midterms are missed, the second missed midterm will be given a mark of zero (0). Writing Midterm 3 during exam week is required to receive credit for the course. Deferred final exams will only be considered if a formal request for academic concession is approved.

Lichen Hunt Project

Students will be tasked with photographing 10 different lichen species on the University of Victoria main campus and categorize them into the three major body forms. Scientific identification is not required for this project, instead this project is designed to teach students how common and numerous lichens are.

The assignment will be introduced and assigned when lichens are covered. A deduction of 10% per day will be applied to late submissions.

Full assignment instructions will be available on Brightspace.

Mushroom ID Collection Project

Students will locate, collect and identify different mushroom species on the University of Victoria main campus. This project will give students experience in searching for mycological specimens, collection protocols, preparation of spore prints and identification.

The assignment will be introduced at the beginning of term and due through Brightspace submission on December 8th. A deduction of 10% per day will be applied to late submissions.

Full assignment instructions will be available on Brightspace.

Letter Grade Conversion:	A+ 90-100%	A 85-89.5%	A- 80-84.5%
	B+ 77-79.5%	B 73-76.5%	B- 70-72.5%
	C+ 65-69.5%	C 60-64.5%	
		D 50-59.5%	F (fail) <49.5%

N: failure to complete the final exam will result in a grade of "N" regardless of the cumulative percentage on other elements of the course. N is a failing grade and factors into GPA as a value of 0.

Academic Policies and Regulations:

[Undergraduate policies and academic regulations](#) are described in the UVic Undergraduate Calendar. Please read very carefully the Policy on Academic Integrity, the Academic Concession Regulation/Guidelines, and Academic Important dates.

Academic Integrity: Students are required to abide by all academic regulations set out in the [University calendar](#), including standards of academic integrity. Violations of academic integrity (e.g. cheating and plagiarism) are considered serious and may result in significant penalties. The exams (quizzes, midterms and final exam) must all be completed **individually** and not with a friend or classmate or a group. You are prohibited from sharing any information about the exam with others.

Academic Concession Regulation/Guidelines:

Please refer to the links below when determining what is a ‘valid reason’ to request an Academic Concession and the process for requesting a concession.

[Academic Concessions Regulation](#) and [Academic Concession Guidelines](#)

Academic Important Dates:

Check [here](#). It is the student’s responsibility to attend to Add/Drop dates published in the Calendar (last day to add courses – **Jan 22**, last day to drop without failure – **Feb 28**). Students must not assume they will be dropped automatically from any course they do not attend. It is also the students’ responsibility to check their records and registration status.

UVic Services:

Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) - UVic is committed to creating a learning experience that is as accessible as possible. If you are registered with the CAL and anticipate or experience any barriers to learning in this course, please feel welcome to discuss your concerns with the course instructor. If you are a student with a disability or chronic health condition, you can meet with a CAL advisor to discuss access and accommodations.

<https://www.uvic.ca/accessible-learning/index.php>

Counselling Services - Counselling Services can help you make the most of your university experience. They offer free professional, confidential, inclusive support to currently registered UVic students.

<https://www.uvic.ca/services/counselling/>

Elders' in Residence - The Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement (IACE) has the privilege of assembling a group of Elders from local communities to guide students and others in Indigenous ways of knowing and being.

<https://www.uvic.ca/services/indigenous/students/programming/elders/index.php>

Health Services - University Health Services (UHS) provides a full service, primary health clinic for students, and coordinates healthy student and campus initiatives. <http://www.uvic.ca/services/health/>

Mental Health Supports - In addition to providing both face to face and online mental health resources through the Student Wellness Centre, a 24x7 phone & online student mental health resource and support program is available for all UVic students, no matter where they are located, at any time.

<https://www.uvic.ca/services/counselling/resources/supportconnect/>

Student Support for Online Technology

Learn Anywhere: <https://onlineacademiccommunity.uvic.ca/LearnAnywhere/>

Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response - UVic takes sexualized violence seriously. We encourage students to learn more about how the university defines sexualized violence and its overall approach by visiting www.uvic.ca/svp. If you or someone you know has been impacted by sexualized violence and needs information, advice, and/or support please contact the sexualized violence resource office in Equity and Human Rights (EQHR). If you want to take part in the important prevention work taking place on campus, you can also contact the sexualized violence resource office in EQHR; Sedgewick C119,

Phone: [250.721.8021](tel:250.721.8021), Email: svpcoordinator@uvic.ca