

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: BIOL-124: Evolution and Diversity

CLASS SECTION: 001A, 001B, 002A, 002B

TERM: WINTER 2025

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): Face to Face

Camosun College campuses are located on the traditional territories of the Ləkʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples. We acknowledge their welcome and graciousness to the students who seek knowledge here.

Learn more about Camosun's [Territorial Acknowledgement](#).

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: DAVID RAJU

EMAIL: raju@camosun.ca

OFFICE: F 342A

OFFICE HOURS: 10:30AM to 11:30AM and 2:30PM to 3:30PM on Wednesday & Friday

As your course instructor, I endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me. Camosun College is committed to identifying and removing institutional and social barriers that prevent access and impede success.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course consists of studies in the general areas of evolution and organism diversity. Topics include natural selection, the genetic basis of evolution, speciation and evolutionary change and the adaptive radiation of organisms.

PREREQUISITE(S):

One of:

C in English 12

C in Camosun Alternative

And one of:

C+ in Anatomy and Physiology 12

C+ in Biology 11

C+ in Camosun Alternative

CO-REQUISITE(S):

Not Applicable

EXCLUSION(S):

Not Applicable

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course a student will be able to:

1. Identify and classify living organisms to their major taxonomic groupings, and list their defining characteristics.
2. Describe the major lines of evidence for evolution.
3. Explain major topics in evolutionary theory.
4. Discuss the nature of scientific knowledge in biology, its limits and strengths, and how it is documented.

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

All materials will be provided, including an electronic Biology textbook.

COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, AND ASSOCIATED PREPARATION / ACTIVITY / EVALUATION

SCHEDULE FOR STUDENTS IN Biology 124-001:

Wednesday Lecture from 11:30-12:50 PM in Fisher 268

Friday Lecture from 11:30-12:50 PM in Fisher 302

Lab 001A Monday from 9:30-12:20 PM in Fisher 244

Lab 001B Tuesday from 9:30-12:20 PM in Fisher 244

Week, Day, Date, Lecture or Lab,	Lab #, Lecture #, or Exam #, Topical Heading	Due Day and Due Date
W1, M/Tu, Jan 6/7, Lab	Introduction to Biodiversity	Same Day
W1, W, Jan 8, Lec	Lec#1 Conservation Dilemma	Sat, Jan 11 before 11PM
W1, F, Jan 10, Lec	Lec#2 Prokaryote Review	Sun, Jan 12 before 11PM
W2, M/Tu, Jan 13/14, Lab	Lab#1 Insect Taxonomy	Same Day
W2, W, Jan 15, Lec	Lec#3 Scientific Inquiry	Sat, Jan 18 before 11PM
W2, F, Jan 17, Lec	Lec#4 Freshwater Invertebrates	Sun, Jan 19 before 11PM
W3, M/Tu, Jan 20/21, Lab	Lab#2 Invertebrate Behaviour	Same Day
W3, W, Jan 22, Lec	Lec#5 Experimental Research	Sat, Jan 25 before 11PM
W3, F, Jan 24, Lec	Lec#6 Invertebrate Review	Sun, Jan 26 before 11PM
W4, M/Tu, Jan 27/28, Lab	Lab#3 Invertebrate Taxonomy	Same Day
W4, W, Jan 29, Lec	Lec#7 Feeding Behaviour	Sat, Feb 1 before 11PM
W4, F, Jan 31, Lec	Lec#8 British Columbia Birds	Sun, Feb 2 before 11PM
W5, M/Tu, Feb 3/4, Lab	Lab#4 Owl Pellet Research	Same Day
W5, W, Feb 5, Lec	Lec#9 Altruism	Sat, Feb 8 before 11PM
W5, F, Feb 7, Lec	Lec#10 Chordate Review	Sun, Feb 9 before 11PM
W6, M/Tu, Feb 10/11, Lab	Lab#5 Chordate Taxonomy	Same Day
W6, W, Feb 12, Lec	Lec#11 Classification Dilemma	Sat, Feb 15 before 11PM
W6, F, Feb 14, Lec	Lec#12 BC Amphibians & Reptiles	Sun, Feb 16 before 11PM
W7, M/Tu, Feb 17/18, Lab	NO LAB	
W7, W, Feb 19, Lec	NO LECTURE	
W7, F, Feb 21, Lec	NO LECTURE	
W8, M/Tu, Feb 24/25, Lab	Lab#6 Sowbug Selection	Same Day
W8, W, Feb 26, Lec	Lec#13 Natural Selection	Sat, Mar 1 before 11PM
W8, F, Feb 28, Lec	Lec#14 Fungi Review	Sun, Mar 2 before 11PM
W9, M/Tu, Mar 3/4, Lab	Lab#7 Mushroom Morphology	Same Day
W9, W, Mar 5, Lec	Lec#15 Sexual Selection	Sat, Mar 8 before 11PM
W9, F, Mar 7, Lec	Lec#16 Fungi Diversity	Sun, Mar 9 before 11PM
W10, M/Tu, Mar 10/11, Lab	Lab#8 Seed Evolution	Same Day
W10, W, Mar 12, Lec	Lec#17 Process of Evolution	Sat, Mar 15 before 11PM
W10, F, Mar 14, Lec	Lec#18 Protozoan Review	Sun, Mar 16 before 11PM
W11, M/Tu, Mar 17/18, Lab	Lab#9 Microorganisms	Same Day
W11, W, Mar 19, Lec	Lec#19 Adaptive Radiation	Sat, Mar 22 before 11PM
W11, F, Mar 21, Lec	Lec#20 Protozoan Diversity	Sun, Mar 23 before 11PM
W12, M/Tu, Mar 24/25, Lab	Lab#10 <i>Daphnia</i> Study	Same Day
W12, W, Mar 26, Lec	Lec#21 Fragmentation	Sat, Mar 29 before 11PM
W12, F, Mar 28, Lec	Lec#22 Plant Review	Sun, Mar 30 before 11PM
W13, M/Tu, Mar 31/ Apr 1 Lab	Lab#11 Plant Diversity	Same Day
W13, W, Apr 2, Lec	Lec#23 Organismal Change	Sat, Apr 5 before 11PM
W13, F, Apr 4, Lec	Lec#24 Migrating Organisms	Sun, April 6 before 11PM
W14, M/Tu, Apr 7/8 Lab	Lab#12 Genetics	Same Day
W14, W, April 9, Lec	Lec#25 Threats to Biodiversity	Sat, Apr 12 before 11PM
W14, F, April 11, Lec	Lec#26 EXAM	Sun, April 13 before 11PM

SCHEDULE FOR STUDENTS IN Biology 124-002:

Wednesday Lecture from 1:00-2:20 PM in Fisher 268

Friday Lecture from 1:00-2:20 PM in Fisher 302

Lab 002A Tuesday from 1:30-4:20 PM in Fisher 244

Lab 002B Monday from 1:30 PM-4:20PM in Fisher 244

Week, Day, Date, Lecture or Lab,	Lab #, Lecture #, or Exam #, Topical Heading	Due Day and Due Date
W1, M/Tu, Jan 6/7, Lab	Introduction to Biodiversity	Same Day
W1, W, Jan 8, Lec	Lec#1 Conservation Dilemma	Sat, Jan 11 before 11PM
W1, F, Jan 10, Lec	Lec#2 Prokaryote Review	Sun, Jan 12 before 11PM
W2, M/Tu, Jan 13/14, Lab	Lab#1 Insect Taxonomy	Same Day
W2, W, Jan 15, Lec	Lec#3 Scientific Inquiry	Sat, Jan 18 before 11PM
W2, F, Jan 17, Lec	Lec#4 Freshwater Invertebrates	Sun, Jan 19 before 11PM
W3, M/Tu, Jan 20/21, Lab	Lab#2 Invertebrate Behaviour	Same Day
W3, W, Jan 22, Lec	Lec#5 Experimental Research	Sat, Jan 25 before 11PM
W3, F, Jan 24, Lec	Lec#6 Invertebrate Review	Sun, Jan 26 before 11PM
W4, M/Tu, Jan 27/28, Lab	Lab#3 Invertebrate Taxonomy	Same Day
W4, W, Jan 29, Lec	Lec#7 Feeding Behaviour	Sat, Feb 1 before 11PM
W4, F, Jan 31, Lec	Lec#8 British Columbia Birds	Sun, Feb 2 before 11PM
W5, M/Tu, Feb 3/4, Lab	Lab#4 Owl Pellet Research	Same Day
W5, W, Feb 5, Lec	Lec#9 Altruism	Sat, Feb 8 before 11PM
W5, F, Feb 7, Lec	Lec#10 Chordate Review	Sun, Feb 9 before 11PM
W6, M/Tu, Feb 10/11, Lab	Lab#5 Chordate Taxonomy	Same Day
W6, W, Feb 12, Lec	Lec#11 Classification Dilemma	Sat, Feb 15 before 11PM
W6, F, Feb 14, Lec	Lec#12 BC Amphibians & Reptiles	Sun, Feb 16 before 11PM
W7, M/Tu, Feb 17/18, Lab	NO LAB	
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W14, F, April 11, Lec	Lec#26 EXAM	Sun, April 13 before 11PM

Students registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) who complete quizzes, tests, and exams with academic accommodations have booking procedures and deadlines with CAL where advanced notice is required. Deadlines can be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html). <http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html>

EVALUATION OF LEARNING

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
12 Labs (12 X 4)	48
25 Lecture Assignments and 1 exam (26 X 2)	52
TOTAL	100%

If you have a concern about a grade you have received for an evaluation, please come and see me as soon as possible. Refer to the [Grade Review and Appeals](http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf) policy for more information. <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf>

COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

On the first day of class you will email the instructor raju@camosun.bc.ca the following information:

- 1) **Subject line of email: "Your Full Name"**
- 2) **In the body of the email:**
 - a) **Once again your full name**
 - b) **Your student number**
 - c) **Your section (001A, 001B, 002A, or 002B)**
 - d) **What day and time is your lab? What room is it in?**
 - e) **What days and times are your two lectures? What room(s) are they in?**
 - f) **The email address you are using to send this email (DO NOT USE D2L).**
 - g) **Any Questions you may have about the Course outline thus far that wasn't answered on the first day of classes, would like repeated, or feel more comfortable asking by email.**

This course has been carefully designed so that the only stress there is will be the stress you create for yourself. I am well aware that proper learning can't take place if stress is present and so I will do my part to provide a proper learning environment but this can't be accomplished without you doing your part. And so complete assignments ahead of time so that you have time to ask questions before the due date, show up to lab early, follow all directions carefully, and most of all have fun. The course is not based on memorization and regurgitation teaching methods but rather is based on learning through student centered processes such as active learning and discovery to achieve the learning outcomes of the course. The learning is in the

search. In other words those that do the doing do the learning. For meaningful and long lasting learning it is my belief that you can not be a passive participant in the process but rather must be the investigator in an investigation and the investigation you have been assigned is Biology 124. I hope you enjoy the course and make the most of it. After all, you get out of life what you put into it. 😊

SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

Enrolment at Camosun assumes that the student will become a responsible member of the College community. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, assist in the preservation of College property, and assume responsibility for their education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

Camosun College offers a number of services to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. For a detailed overview of the supports and services visit <http://camosun.ca/students/>.

Academic Advising	http://camosun.ca/advising
Accessible Learning	http://camosun.ca/accessible-learning
Counselling	http://camosun.ca/counselling
Career Services	http://camosun.ca/coop
Financial Aid and Awards	http://camosun.ca/financialaid
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	http://camosun.ca/help-centres
Indigenous Student Support	http://camosun.ca/indigenous
International Student Support	http://camosun.ca/international/
Learning Skills	http://camosun.ca/learningskills
Library	http://camosun.ca/services/library/

Office of Student Support	http://camosun.ca/oss
Ombudsperson	http://camosun.ca/ombuds
Registration	http://camosun.ca/registration
Technology Support	http://camosun.ca/its
Writing Centre	http://camosun.ca/writing-centre

If you have a mental health concern, please contact Counselling to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. Counselling sessions are available at both campuses during business hours. If you need urgent support after-hours, please contact the Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888 or call 911.

COLLEGE-WIDE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND STANDARDS

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The College is committed to providing appropriate and reasonable academic accommodations to students with disabilities (i.e. physical, depression, learning, etc). If you have a disability, the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#) (CAL) can help you document your needs, and where disability-related barriers to access in your courses exist, create an accommodation plan. By making a plan through CAL, you can ensure you have the appropriate academic accommodations you need without disclosing your diagnosis or condition to course instructors. Please visit the CAL website for contacts and to learn how to get started:

<http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/>

Academic Integrity

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.13.pdf> for policy regarding academic expectations and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

Academic Progress

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.1.pdf> for further details on how Camosun College monitors students' academic progress and what steps can be taken if a student is at risk of not meeting the College's academic progress standards.

Course Withdrawals Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <http://camosun.ca/learn/fees/#deadlines>.

Grading Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

Mandatory Attendance for First Class Meeting of Each Course

Camosun College requires mandatory attendance for the first class meeting of each course. If you do not attend, and do not provide your instructor with a reasonable reason in advance, you will be removed from the course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student. For more information, please see the “Attendance” section under “Registration Policies and Procedures” (<http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/procedures.html>) and the Grading Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf>.

Medical / Compassionate Withdrawals

Students who are incapacitated and unable to complete or succeed in their studies by virtue of serious and demonstrated exceptional circumstances may be eligible for a medical/compassionate withdrawal. Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.8.pdf> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

Sexual Violence and Misconduct

Camosun is committed to creating a campus culture of safety, respect, and consent. Camosun’s Office of Student Support is responsible for offering support to students impacted by sexual violence. Regardless of when or where the sexual violence or misconduct occurred, students can access support at Camosun. The Office of Student Support will make sure students have a safe and private place to talk and will help them understand what supports are available and their options for next steps. The Office of Student Support respects a student’s right to choose what is right for them. For more information see Camosun’s Sexualized Violence and Misconduct Policy: <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.9.pdf> and camosun.ca/sexual-violence. To contact the Office of Student Support: oss@camosun.ca or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-3703841

Student Misconduct (Non-Academic)

Camosun College is committed to building the academic competency of all students, seeks to empower students to become agents of their own learning, and promotes academic belonging for everyone. Camosun also expects that all students to conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to a positive, supportive, and safe learning environment. Please review Camosun College’s Student Misconduct Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College’s expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

Changes to this syllabus: Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this syllabus is accurate at the time of publication. The College reserves the right to change courses if it becomes necessary so that course content remains relevant. In such cases, the instructor will give the students clear and timely notice of the changes.