

YORK UNIVERSITY
Ontario Universities Program in Field Biology

Course Title:	Ecological Monitoring in an Urban System	
Instructor(s):	Dr. Laura McKinnon (lmck@glendon.yorku.ca)	
Dates:	May 7 – May 21, 2017 (weekends included)	
Location:	Don River Ravine system & surrounding natural areas at Glendon Campus, York University, 2275 Bayview Avenue, Toronto, ON, M4N 3M6	
Cost:	<p>\$350 (\$350 deposit to home university, \$0 balance). Excluded: Students are responsible for their own transportation costs to and from Glendon Campus and surrounding field sites which will all be located within walking distance of local municipal transportation (TTC). The cost of campus accommodation is not included and is estimated at \$445 for the two-week period. Students should budget approximately \$30/day for food if using the campus food services. Please contact the Instructor at least 1 month before the start date to reserve accommodations. While we prefer students to live on-campus at Glendon residence for the duration of the field course, we recognize that this may not be feasible for some students who may wish to live at home. However, some field course days will begin early in the morning (4am), and run late. The course includes the first weekend.</p>	
Prerequisites:	A university course in Introductory Biology and Ecology	
Enrolment:	20 students (12 reserved for York/Glendon)	
Description:	<p>This field course is based in the secluded Don River setting of Glendon Campus, which is part of Toronto's extensive ravine system. Local wildlife includes white-tailed deer and coyotes. The course combines short in-laboratory instructional sessions (< 2 hours) with daily field excursions to natural areas in the Greater Toronto Area, where students will master ecological sampling techniques.</p> <p>In-class instructional sessions permit students to establish a strong baseline of knowledge in ecological theory, sampling design, data collection and data analysis. The outdoor field component, which will be held mostly on campus and surrounding areas, will permit students to gain hands on experience in ecological field sampling. We will cover a diversity of field techniques such as; nest searching, bird banding, small mammal trapping, amphibian monitoring, botanical surveys, insect sampling, behavioural observations, and water and soil sampling. The students will then apply the techniques learned to a group research project to be completed within three weeks of the end of the course.</p>	
Evaluation:	Field exercises (Week 1) Group Research Proposal and Presentation (Week 2) Dataset, Analysis and Research Paper Outline (due May 28) Final Research Paper (due June 18)	20% 20% 20% 40%

***\$350 Deposit is due at time of registration.

Tuition at your home institution is *in addition* to any field module costs.

Students who drop a field course should not expect a refund of any field course costs.

Students are encouraged to purchase cancellation insurance if airline tickets are required.

Students are responsible for all fees incurred by the home or host university due to any bounced cheque.