

BROCK UNIVERSITY
Ontario Universities Program in Field Biology

Course Title:	Biodiversity in the Biosphere Reserve	
Instructor(s):	Liette Vasseur (lvasseur@brocku.ca)	
Dates:	August 14 – August 25, 2017 (12 days straight)	
Location:	Brock University	
Cost:	\$350 (\$350 deposit to home university, \$0 balance) Includes: supplies and transportation for the course; Excluded: accommodation and travel to Brock is student's own responsibility	
Prerequisites:	General ecology (ideally statistics course as well) Note: the fieldwork is mainly in an escarpment (Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve).	
Enrolment:	20 students (10 reserved for Brock)	
Description:	Introduction of the concepts of Biosphere Reserves and the importance to protect biodiversity. This course deals with the issues and techniques of ecosystem survey and long-term monitoring of changes due to human activities and environmental factors (natural and anthropogenic). It examines natural versus urban ecosystems based on integrative studies from the biological, geological, geographical, management, social, and economic perspectives. The course will introduce students to sampling design and techniques, treatment of data incorporated in fieldwork, labs, lecture-discussion, and integration of various concepts through team projects and report preparation. Monitoring techniques will include rapid environmental assessment, field practices and installation of permanent biodiversity plots, tree mapping in plots, soil sampling and analyses, insect, salamander, and bird surveys; and surveys of aquatic ecosystems. The course includes the re-evaluation of another series of permanent biodiversity plots as well as a team project.	
Evaluation:	Field Journal (individual) Data entry and interpretation homework (individual) Presentation (team) First week report (team) Participation (it's teamwork) (evaluation completed by professor, TA and team peers using a specific evaluation form) Final report (team)(to be submitted one week after the field course)	25% 15% 10% 10% 15% 25%

***\$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.