

**QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY**  
Ontario Universities Program in Field Biology

<b>Course Title:</b>	<b>Origins, patterns, and conservation of biodiversity in Western Mexico.</b>
<b>Instructor(s):</b>	Dr. Stephen Lougheed, (steve.lougheed@queensu.ca)
<b>Dates:</b>	Sunday February 12 – Sunday February 26 2017
<b>Location:</b>	Western Mexico
<b>Cost:</b>	<p>\$2,400 (\$350 deposit to home university; \$2050 balance) plus tuition payable at your home institution.</p> <p>This cost includes room and board, local transportation, airfare from Pearson Int'l Airport, and supplies.</p> <p>The student is responsible for all fees incurred by the home or host university due to any bounced cheque.</p>
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	University course in general biology. Additional course(s) in ecology and biostatistics are an asset.
<b>Enrolment:</b>	20 students (6 reserved for Queen's)
<b>Description:</b>	<p>This course provides students with an introduction to field ecology, biodiversity and conservation in Western Mexico. Seminars, class discussions, guest lectures, and field exercises provide overviews of the geological and natural history of Mexican biota, an introduction to different habitats and techniques for assessment of biological diversity, an overview of the scientific method, and conservation issues in the Latin and North America generally and Mexico specifically. We provide an introduction to Spanish with a handout of useful words and phrases. We plan will visit at least two locations in in the rugged areas of Western Mexico lying near the Pacific Ocean. Each field site serves as a geographic focus for group research projects designed in consultation with the instructors. Class fieldwork provides introductions to some of the typical, rare and endemic flora and fauna of the region. The course occurs over Reading Week for Queen's students, but also requires being absent for one week of classes thereafter. We will provide a letter to this effect to each participant, but students must approach individual faculty at their home institutions to request accommodation. The course will be undertaken with faculty and students from the Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolas de Hidalgo in Morelia, Michoacan, Mexico.</p>
<b>Evaluation:</b>	<p>Seminar: 20 minute seminar based on scientific literature (20%)</p> <p>Field book including habitat and species descriptions &amp; all field data (20%)</p> <p>Written report (10-15 pages) based on data collected for group research projects (due~ 4 weeks after end of field course) (40%)</p> <p>Participation in class discussions &amp; field activities) (10%)</p> <p>Blog entries (alternating groups of students write daily entries for a bilingual course blog describing their insights: e.g. <a href="https://queensumexico2015.wordpress.com">https://queensumexico2015.wordpress.com</a>) (10%)</p>