

WESTERN UNIVERSITY

Ontario Universities Program in Field Biology

Course Title:	Adirondack Forest Ecology	
Instructor(s):	Dr. Ben Rubin (brubin2@uwo.ca; 519-661-2111 x87475)	
Dates:	May 2 – May 17, 2017	
Location:	Huntington Wildlife Forest, Adirondack State Park, Newcomb, NY	
Cost:	<p>\$1550 (\$350 deposit to home university, \$1200 balance). Includes: transportation (from and returning to London, ON or Hamilton, ON), lodging, and meals starting with dinner on May 2 and ending with lunch on May 17. Excluded: Valid travel documents for entering the US and returning to Canada are required (this definitely includes a passport and may include a Visa depending on your country of citizenship). Proof of supplementary medical insurance for travel to the US is required. Balance: required by March 21, 2017. To maintain a place in the course, payment is due in full on this date.</p>	
Prerequisites:	<p>Two courses in biology NOTE: This course requires substantial hiking on and off trails in steep, rough and mountainous terrain. Weather in the Adirondacks in May can be mild or severe, including the possibility of biting insects, cold temperatures, rain or even snow. If you wish to avoid these conditions, please do not sign up for this course.</p>	
Enrolment:	20 students (4 reserved for Western)	
Description:	<p>At more than 24,000 km², the Adirondack Park is one of the largest protected areas in eastern North America. It is 3.5 times the size of Algonquin Provincial Park with similar forests and more mountainous topography. This course will explore the natural history of environments within the Adirondack Park, including boreal, northern hardwood, upland, lowland and aquatic communities. We will observe the Adirondacks during leaf-out in early spring – one of the most dynamic times of year. In order to take full advantage of being in the field, the course will focus on three themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of flora and fauna • Field measurement techniques • Natural and human history of the Adirondacks <p>Students will be required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach themselves about the basic ecology of one common bird species and one common trees species before leaving on the trip and introduce the class to these species when we arrive in the Adirondacks. • Keep a field journal • Conduct an independent project including data collection during the final third of the course with a final report 	
Evaluation:	<p>Participation during course</p> <p>Introducing the class to assigned species</p> <p>Mid-course (field) exam</p> <p>Topic proposal (to be completed in the Adirondacks)</p> <p>Field journal (due May 17, 2017)</p> <p>Final report (due June 8, 2017)</p>	<p>20%</p> <p>5%</p> <p>20%</p> <p>5%</p> <p>20%</p> <p>30%</p>

***\$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.