

YORK UNIVERSITY
Ontario Universities Program in Field Biology

Course Title:	Estuarine ecology
Instructor(s):	Dr. Laura McKinnon (lmck@glendon.yorku.ca)
Dates:	August 12 – 23
Location:	Métis-sur-mer Lighthouse, Métis-sur-mer, Québec, G0J1S0
Cost:	\$750 covers shared accommodations, food and local transportation for offsite field activities. Students are responsible for transportation to and from the site and tuition at home institution.
Prerequisites:	A university course in Introductory Biology and Ecology.
Enrolment*:	20 students (12 reserved for York/Glendon students)
Course Description (brief):	This field course takes place the small bilingual community of Métis-sur-mer located on the south shore of the St. Lawrence River. All of our work will be conducted on supra-and intertidal region and will include the sampling of all available taxa: birds, seals, invertebrates, and plants etc. Prior to the course students will be expected to complete a systemic literature review on a topic of their choice related to estuarine ecology and present the results of their review upon arrival. During the course students learn a variety of field techniques in estuarine ecology including, but not limited to: shorebird identification and census techniques, marine mammal monitoring, core sampling for marine invertebrate collection and identification of marine invertebrates. Student will also interact with several local ecologists from the nearby l'Institut Maurice-Lamontagne (Department of Fisheries and Oceans) as well as local park biologists. Finally, students will conduct their own field study and present preliminary results to the community in a mini-symposium at the end of the course.
Evaluation:	Systematic Literature Review and Presentation (August 13) (20%) Field Activities (20%) Research Proposal (due August 16) (20%) Community Presentation (August 23) (10%) Scientific Report (Sept. 20) (30%)

Deadline to apply is **Feb 8, 2019**

If interested please complete the application form and submit it to the OUPFB course coordinator at your school.
Deposit of \$350 is due at the 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.

An Average Day – What to Expect

(a) Daily timeline	All field activities will be scheduled during daylight hours (5am to 9pm) but will be determined primary by the tide cycle so there may be some very early mornings, and some very late mornings.
(b) Work habitat & Physical exertion	Students must be in good physical shape and be able to walk on rocky, slippery terrain (wet intertidal rocky areas) as well as soft intertidal mudflats (being careful not to lose your rubber boots!).
(c) Common activities	Prepare for long days in the sun, rain or wind. Risks in the field include; fatigue, blisters from walking, heat exhaustion, sun burn, dehydration and bug bites.
(d) Weather, dehydration, & biting insects	August on the shores of the St. Lawrence is variable with temperatures ranging from 10 to 20 degrees. Prepare for cool days on the lakeshore (hat/warm jacket/gloves), rainy days (rain jacket) and hot sunny days with little cover (sunhat/sunblock). Biting bugs are not too much of an issue.
(e) Toxic/poisonous, wildlife/ plants	Bee stings are a possibility on the shore.
(f) Sleeping, washroom & laundry facilities	Students will share two rustic houses with single or double bedrooms. Linens are provided but students are encouraged to bring their own sleeping bag and pillow. There are coin laundry facilities at a nearby campsite (1.5km walk).
(g) Meal plans & food allergies	Students are responsible for making meals together. A schedule will be set up so that everyone shares this task equally.
(h) Non-academic responsibilities	Students will be responsible for group meals, doing dishes and keeping the accommodations in order. There are no maids. A schedule will also be made for this if necessary.
(i) Degree of isolation	The field site is located at the site of an old lighthouse on a very quiet peninsula. The site is not isolated in that it is only a 10 minute drive from the nearest town and there are other summer residents living on the point – but it can feel isolated!
(j) Alcohol & drugs	No alcohol or drugs permitted during class activities.
(k) Vaccinations/ Insurances	Students must provide evidence of up to date tetanus vaccinations.
(l) Social Situations	Students will work closely with each other in small groups and will likely meet curious residents while they are conducting fieldwork.
(m) Final comments	Two weeks on the beach, how could anyone not love this course?