

CARLETON UNIVERSITY
Ontario Universities Program in Field Biology

Course Title:	Turtles: Ecology, Behaviour, and Conservation Website: https://turtlecourse.weebly.com/
Instructor(s):	Grégory Bulté, Gregory.Bulte@carleton.ca
Dates:	May 5 to May 18 2019
Location:	Queen's University Biological Station (QUBS)
Cost:	\$1200 (payable as \$350 non-refundable deposit to your home University and \$850 Balance to Carleton University). The balance is due by March 22, 2019 payable by cheque to: <p style="text-align: center;">Carleton University 814308-189023</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The cheques should be mailed to: Ruth Hill-Lapensee, Dept. Biology, Carleton University, 1125 Colonel By Dr, Ottawa, ON K1S 5B6.</p> Includes: room, board, lab space at the Queen's University Biological, ground transportation at QUBS and research equipment Excluded: travel costs to and from QUBS.
Prerequisites:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second year coursework in ecology, conservation biology, or animal behaviour. • Be comfortable with working near, on, and in the water.
Enrolment*:	12 (4)
Course Description (brief):	The goal of this course is to introduce students to wildlife ecology, animal behaviour, and conservation biology through the study of freshwater turtles in the field. You will apply different sampling and observational techniques to gather data on the abundance, distribution, and demography of selected species of turtles. You will also perform a group project on the ecology or behaviour of turtles from which you will write your final report. You will also have to produce a public outreach article or video abstract about the biology or conservation of freshwater turtles. Although this field course focuses on turtles, the skills and concepts covered are directly transferable to other groups of animals and field situations. See full details on course website: https://turtlecourse.weebly.com/
Evaluation:	Participation: 10% Field notebook: 10% Outreach project: 20% Final report: 60%

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

<p>(a) Daily timeline</p>	<p>The schedule will vary based on weather conditions and the availability of shared equipment and space such as boats and classrooms, but a typical work day follows this schedule.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7h30 to 8h30: Breakfast • 9h00 - 12h00: Fieldwork / Data collection • 12h00 to 13h00: Lunch • 13h00 to 17h30: Fieldwork / Data collection • 19h00 to 21h00: Workshops / Lab work / Independent work on outreach project <p>Be prepared to work from 9AM to 9PM most days.</p>
<p>(b) Work habitat & Physical exertion</p>	<p>All the species of turtles that we will be studying live in lakes and wetlands and most of the fieldwork will be conducted in chest waders or from canoes. Short hikes (< 3Km) with field gear and canoeing will be necessary to reach certain sites. Wading and canoeing are wonderful ways to get close and personal with the aquatic realm but wading in ponds with soft mucky bottoms is strenuous so as paddling in windy conditions. Working on or in the water can also be challenging on hot sunny days. You will have to demonstrate common sense with regards to sun protection, hydration and physical exertion.</p>
<p>(c) Common activities</p>	<p>Common activities will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiking and canoeing to sampling sites • Actively searching for turtles • Setting and checking nets • Installing and retrieving data collection devices such as cameras • Measuring turtles and recording data • Entering and summarizing data • Performing behavioural observations in the field or from videos recorded during the course • Briefings and discussions about projects • Cleaning and organizing field gear • Analysis workshops and research for outreach project <p>Taking selfies with cute turtles</p>
<p>(d) Weather, dehydration, & biting insects</p>	<p>Weather conditions in early spring are quite variable but the highs are generally around 12 to 20°C and the lows between 3 and 10°C. We probably will have to work in some cold and rainy conditions (at least there is no bugs when it is cold and rainy!). The lake temperature is usually around 10 to 15°C so you may get a chill from wading in the lake. Pack clothing for rain, warm, and cold weather as well as sunscreen, and a water bottle.</p> <p>Wetlands are breeding grounds for a number of biting insects and blood donations to the six legged kind may be inevitable. If you strongly react to insects bites, use insect repellent but care should be exercised with these strong chemicals when handling wildlife.</p>
<p>(e) Toxic/poisonous, wildlife/ plants</p>	<p>While doing fieldwork you may be exposed to poison ivy, wild parsnip, or diseases carrying ticks. Toxic plants are easy to avoid once you know to recognize them. To limit exposure to disease carrying ticks, I strongly recommend to always wear long pants in the field, and to tuck your pants inside your socks. You should also perform a daily tick check.</p>
<p>(f) Sleeping, washroom & laundry facilities</p>	<p>Your accommodations at QUBS will either be in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a single or double unheated cabin without a washroom (shared washroom with individual showers stalls are available in the main building) or in; • a shared bedroom in a cottage or dorm house with a washroom. Up to 4 students may share a bedroom. • Sleeping accommodations are not co-ed. <p>You will only find out about your accommodations upon arrival at QUBS so pack as if you will have unheated accommodations (i.e. a warm sleeping bag). Pack earplugs if you are a light sleeper.</p> <p>All showers have hot water.</p> <p>QUBS does not provide bedding. Bring your own sleeping bag and pillow.</p> <p>Coin operated laundry is available on site.</p>
<p>(g) Meal plans & food allergies</p>	<p>QUBS provides 3 meals per day plus snacks (e.g. fruits, bread, cereals) around the clock. The default diet includes meat and dairy. Vegetarian and vegan diets are available based on special requests. The cooking staff can accommodate special dietary requirements such as allergies and intolerances. Any special dietary arrangements (i.e. everything that is not the default diet) must be made in advance and for the duration of the course (not a meal per meal basis). I will provide instructions regarding dietary accommodations shortly before the beginning of the course.</p>
<p>(h) Non-academic responsibilities</p>	<p>QUBS does not have full time cleaning staff and students and researchers are expected to clean after themselves in both the living and working spaces.</p>

(i) Degree of isolation	QUBS is 45 minutes north of Kingston and has WIFI. Bandwidth is sufficient to check emails and browse but cannot sustain high streaming and downloading demands so we ask students to refrain from using streaming and downloading platforms.
(j) Alcohol & drugs	<p>The drugs and alcohol policy for QUBS is the following:</p> <p><i>“Queen's University does not permit alcoholic beverages in its work buildings (Operations Centre, workshop, aquarium or labs). However, alcoholic beverages are permitted in individual residences. Keep bottles and cans out of plain sight. Even a few empties in plain view give the wrong impression to visitors to QUBS.</i></p> <p><i>There is zero tolerance for illegal drugs at QUBS or on QUBS properties.</i></p> <p><i>It is expected that QUBS users will behave in a sensible and decorous manner at all times.”</i></p> <p>Cannabis Policy:</p> <p><i>Consumption of cannabis is subject to a number of restrictions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Smoking or vaping of cannabis is prohibited on the Queen's University campus (which includes QUBS) , unless approved for medical or research use. The university’s Interim Smoking of Cannabis Policy works in tandem with existing Queen’s policies about Smoking on Campus.</i> • <i>Use of recreational cannabis in the workplace is illegal and will remain so following Oct. 17, 2018.</i> <p><i>The purchase or sale of edibles is not legal and will not become legal on Oct. 17, 2018.</i></p>
(k) Vaccinations/ Insurances	General health insurance for Canadian Resident. International students should have travel insurance.
(l) Social Situations	For safety reasons, fieldwork will always be performed at least in pairs. Moreover, you will have to share accommodations (including a bedroom) with other participants in the course. You must therefore be comfortable with team work and communal living arrangements. This course is a great opportunity to meet new people and to expand your networks of friends and professional contacts. If you feel the social environment of the course may be challenging, please contact the instructor before signing up.
(m) Final comments	QUBS is an amazing place to be exposed to a wide range of field research and to meet students and researchers from other institutions. Moreover, it is located in one of Canada’s biodiversity hotspots. Also, turtles are awesome.