**IB 499: Discussions in Integrative Biology: Ecology & Evolution in aquatic systems**

**Lecture Information**

**Instructor:**
Dr Carla Cáceres  
Office: 477Morrill Hall  
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*S/U only (no letter grade).*

*1 credit hr.*

**Catalogue Description:**
Seminars, discussions, research project presentations, readings, and reviews of special topics in integrative biology.

**Expanded Description:**
This course addresses the integrative biology of aquatic habitats: from small storm-water ponds to lakes, we address the integration of the abiotic and biotic elements of ecosystems to address three questions:

1. How do ecological and evolutionary processes interact to shape life-history variation?
2. How do feedbacks between genetic and species diversity influence metacommunity dynamics?
3. How do ecological and evolutionary processes interact to shape the distribution and abundance of disease?

We will focus primary readings of data-driven published papers and meta-analyses, whether from the peer-reviewed literature or from the presenting students’ own research projects.

This course is not required for the IB major.

**Course Type:** On-line

**Course Structure:** Once weekly, time TBD

**Text:** No textbook. Primary data paper readings are assigned weekly.

**Course Web Site:** Materials for the course will be posted on the course Moodle site: https://learn.illinois.edu

**Prerequisite:** Consent of instructor.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**
1. Students will be able to present and explain the content a primary scientific data paper.
2. Students will be able to assess and evaluate the content and structure of a peer’s presentation of scientific data.
3. Students will learn to successfully manage their time, read and write critically, and follow instructions.
4. Students will be able to participate reliably, responsibly, respectfully, productively, and effectively in a collaborative in-person and/or online scientific discussion.

**Assignments, Course Attendance, and Grading**

**Course Grading Assignments and Philosophy**

1) You are required to attend all class meetings; occasional medical and instructor pre-approved absences are accepted. **Our expectation is that you will read this material before coming to class.**
2) Participation is critical and will be graded, as it will help you learn the material and help us gauge understanding.

**Disabilities Statement**

If you require special accommodations, please contact Dr. Cáceres via email as soon as possible. All accommodations will follow the procedures as stated in Article 1-110 of the Student Code (http://studentcode.illinois.edu/article1_part1_1-110.html). To obtain disability-related academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the course instructor and the Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) as soon as possible. To contact DRES you may visit 1207 S. Oak St., Champaign, call 333-4603 (V/TTY), or e-mail a message to disability@illinois.edu.

**Code of Civil Class Conduct:**

Students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the campus Student Code: https://studentcode.illinois.edu. As a reminder, the Campus Integrity Statement states: “The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign expects its faculty, staff, students and guests to conduct themselves in accordance with the community values of civility, respect, and honesty; to maintain the highest level of integrity and exercise critical judgment in all dealings, decisions and encounters; and to maintain and strengthen the public’s trust and confidence in our institution.” You will receive three written warnings if your language and comments are divisive or offensive. After these warnings you will receive a 0 on the participation grade for the session in which your comments are deemed inappropriate for the third time (warning). A fourth written warning will result in your dismissal from the course. What does it mean to be divisive or offensive? The list includes but is not limited to: personal attacks, false statements with no basis in fact, demeaning someone’s experience, belittling language, broad generalizations and stereotyping, amongst others. If you cannot find a credible source to support something you are trying to state as a scientific finding, it is likely in this category.

**Academic Integrity** is essential to maintaining a learning environment that promotes excellence. We expect that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. We adhere to the academic misconduct guidelines outlined by the Student Code of Conduct and will report any suspected academic misconduct using the FAIR system. Please see http://studentcode.illinois.edu/article1_part4_1-402.html for additional details. If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact Dr. Cáceres

**Course schedule—TBD**