**SIO 121 Biology of the Cryosphere**

Spring 2018 Syllabus

<https://github.com/bowmanjeffs/SIO121>

HSS2152, T&Th, 8-9:20

# Instructor

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\*IMPORTANT: all email to me must contain SIO121 in the subject line

# Grading

5 % In-class quizzes

15 % Annotated bibliography

15 % Mid-term presentation

25 % Final paper

40 % Final exam

# Textbook

The textbook is required for this course. The text is: Laybourn-Parry, J., Tranter, M. and Hodson, A.J., 2012. *The ecology of snow and ice environments*. Oxford University Press.

**Late work policy**

Late work will not be accepted. Work is accepted by email/online submission until midnight of the due date. Because of this there is really no conceivable reason for not submitting an assignment on time. If you are literally *in a coma due to unforeseen circumstances* an exception will be made.

# Assignments

## In-class quizzes

Each class will start with a short 2-3 question quiz on the previous lecture or reading. If you are unable to attend class you have two options (three, if you take the < 0.5 % hit): 1) attend remotely and email me the quiz answers *before the end of the lecture*, or 2) provide a brief, one-page paper on the topic of the lecture covered by the quiz.

## Annotated bibliography

The annotated bibliography, mid-term presentation, and final paper are all on the same topic. You will provide three possible topics; I will sort the class into groups based on interest. Each group will choose their final topic. The annotated bibliography will consist of a short review of five references. Each review should follow a complete citation in Harvard format, and should be 2-3 paragraphs in length (roughly 1/2 page). There should be NO OVERLAP in annotated references between group members.

## Mid-term presentation

Each group will give a 15-minute presentation on their topic, with 5 minutes of questions. All group members are expected to actively participate in both the preparation and presentation.

## Final paper

The final paper will be a 2000 word paper on your topic. The paper should be well referenced (min 10), and should include one original figure. Discussion and coordination among group members is encouraged, but your papers should be sufficiently distinct that they pass a plagiarism check. Required elements of the paper include: title, abstract, wordcount.

## Final exam

The final exam will be comprehensive, and consist of a mix of multiple choice and short answer questions.

# Office hours

Office hours will be held from 12-1 on Thursday afternoon. My office is located on the SIO campus at Sverdrup Hall 2139. You can join office hours in person, or via Google Hangouts.

# Schedule

The course schedule is subject to change. Always refer to the online version.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Topic** | **Reading**  **(due this day)** | **Other** |
| April 3 | Course intro, introduction to the cryosphere and biology review | None |  |
| April 5 | Chemical and physical setting - sea ice | 1.1-1.5 (19 pages) |  |
| April 10 | Challenges, opportunities, and adaptations to life at low temperature | - |  |
| April 12 | Chemical and physical setting - glaciers, snow, permafrost | 1.6-1.7 (17 pages) |  |
| April 17 | Sea ice ecology 1 | 4.1 (19 pages) | Three possible topics for your major assignments due today |
| April 19 | Sea ice ecology 2 | - | Groups for midterm presentation assigned today. Each group will select their final topic before the end of the day. |
| April 24 | Life in and under snow | Chapter 2 (9 pages) |  |
| April 26 | Permafrost ecology | Chapter 3 (24 pages) |  |
| May 1 | Life in, under, and on glaciers | Chapter 5 (19 pages) |  |
| May 3 | Aerobiology/Midterm presentations | - | Annotated bibliography due. Will need two groups to volunteer to present this week. |
| May 8 | Astrobiology | Chapter 6 (7 pages) |  |
| May 10 | Midterm presentations | - |  |
| May 15 | Upper trophic levels, TBD | - | Jeff attending psychrophile genomics conference |
| May 17 | Upper trophic levels, TBD | External reading, TBD | Jeff attending psychrophile genomics conference |
| May 22 | Polynyas | - |  |
| May 24 | Upper trophic levels: Bottom-up vs. top-down processes and how they are affecting trends in mesopredator (penguins & seals) reproductive success | External reading, TBD |  |
| May 29 | Humans and the cryosphere | Hovelsrud, G.K., Poppel, B., Oort, B.V. and Reist, J.D., 2011. Arctic societies, cultures, and peoples in a changing cryosphere. *AMBIO: A Journal of the Human Environment*, *40*(sup 1), pp.100-110. |  |
| May 31 | The future of the cryosphere | Berteaux, D., Réale, D., McAdam, A.G. and Boutin, S., 2004. Keeping pace with fast climate change: can arctic life count on evolution?. *Integrative and Comparative Biology*, *44*(2), pp.140-151. |  |
| June 5 | Exploring the cryosphere | - |  |
| June 7 | Review for final | - | Final paper due |
| Thursday June 14  8-11 | Final |  |  |