

Welcome to BIOL300— Fundamentals of Biostatistics

Lab 1: Sep 9, 2025

L03 (Tue 9-11am) & L10 (Tue 11am-1pm)

about me

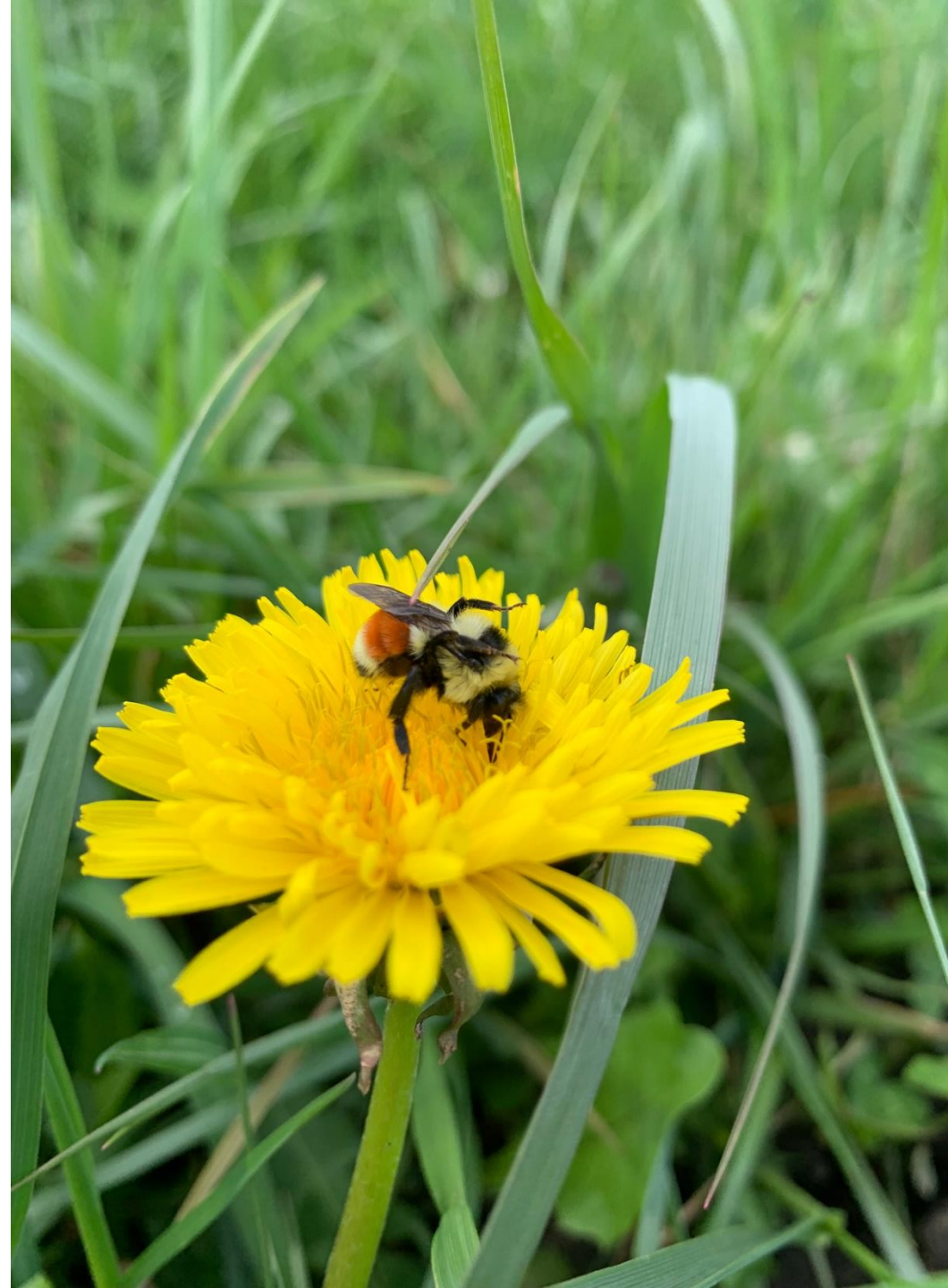
I am a PhD candidate in the Working to Restore Connectivity and Sustainability ([WoRCS](#)) Lab in the Department of Zoology. My supervisor (Professor Claire Kremen) leads a research group focused on promoting biodiversity and sustainable management practices in working landscapes.



about me

my research focuses on bumblebee movement, resource use, and health in agroecosystems. I use a variety of tools, including field work, molecular biology, and Bayesian modelling, to assess the behaviours, risks, and rewards experienced by pollinators inhabiting agricultural landscapes.

in my free time, I enjoy running, hiking, and reading about bees.



quick intros

please share your:

name

pronouns (if comfortable!)

favorite organism

office hours

Thursday 11am-12pm in BRC 5006

to access BRC 5006, enter the door opposite the main entrance to the Beaty Museum and go up the stairs (or elevator) to the 5th floor

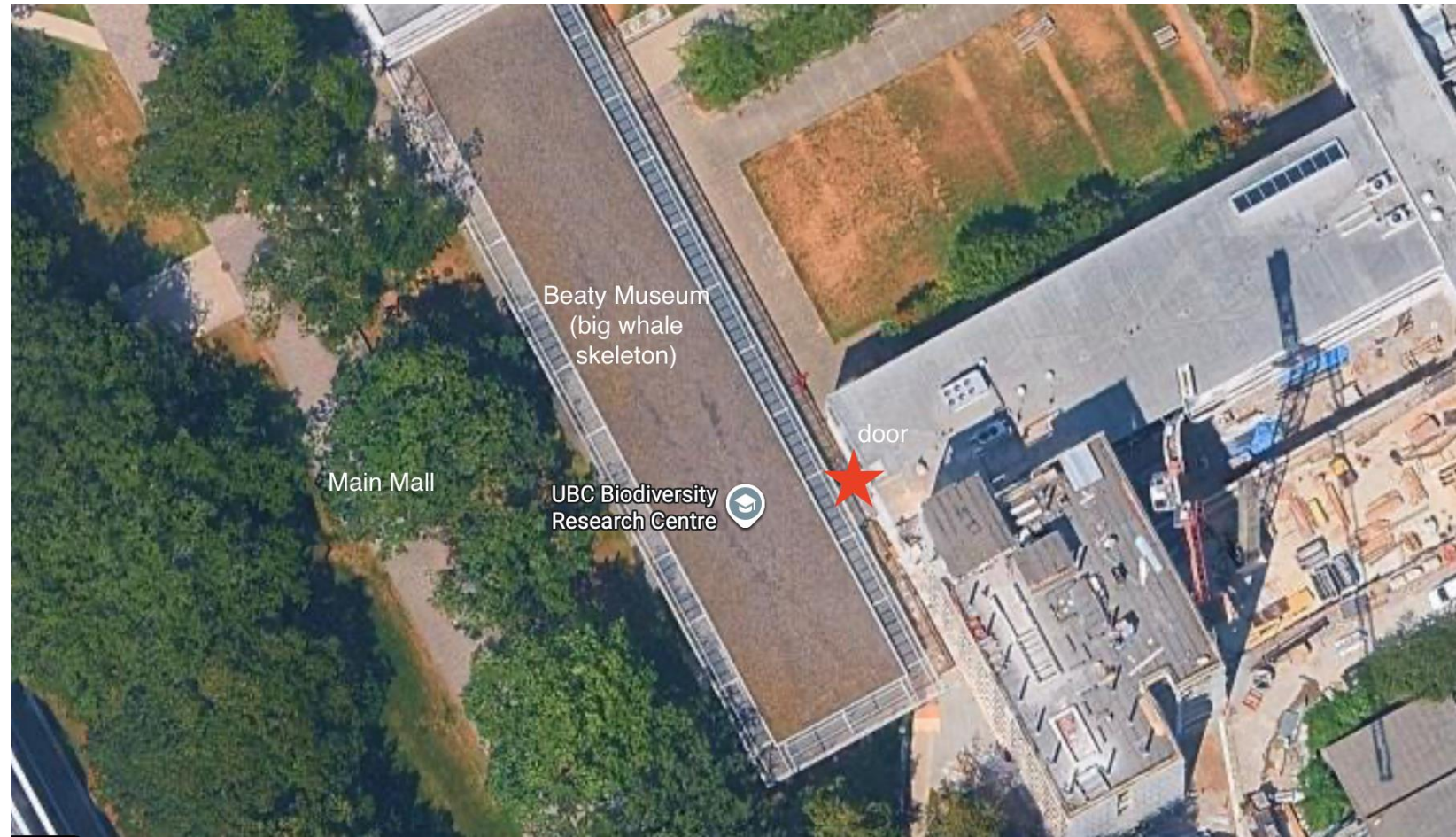
if you have issues finding the room or would like to meet on zoom, please email me:

jenna.melanson@ubc.ca

all zoom office hours will be held here:

<https://ubc.zoom.us/j/9453359778?pwd=NWhuaWZrTTdseU9WNXBvWHV2MEhUZz09>

if you are not available at this time, I recommend that you first check out other available TA office hours on canvas, or send me an email if its urgent



piazza

please post all general course material questions to piazza—this ensures that the TAs and instructors don't have to answer every question multiple times (as it's likely others will have similar questions!)

if you don't have access to piazza, let me know **today**

questions about personal concessions should go to the instructors:

Dr. Vikram Baliga (vikram.baliga@ubc.ca); Office hours: Mondays 2-3pm, Biological Sciences 3237 (West wing)

Dr. Kaitlyn Gaynor (kaitlyn.gaynor@ubc.ca, she/they); Office hours: Thursdays 12-1pm, Biodiversity Research Centre 6015

email policy

you are welcome to email me with any questions/concerns throughout the course, and I will do my best to answer within 24 hours (except weekends)

my response may sometimes be “please post this on piazza and I will answer you there...”

the importance of statistics in biology (and why you shouldn't be scared...)

Statistical knowledge is one of the the most important tools you can have as a biologist. Without it, you'll have a very challenging time differentiating high quality research (and trustworthy results) from poor quality research.

If you aim to understand the concepts (and not just memorize names/syntax) your statistical knowledge will be much more flexible and allow you to pivot to all different types of datasets and analyses.

Statistics is not as scary as people make it out to be—with focused effort, anyone can become an expert!

today–introduction to R & RStudio, making data files

online course materials:

<https://whitlockschluter3e.zoology.ubc.ca/RLabs/index.html>

these slides will be posted on github:

<https://github.com/jmelanson98/biol300>