

## Instructors

Dr. Matthew Osmond, [mm.osmond@utoronto.ca](mailto:mm.osmond@utoronto.ca) (weeks 1-6)

Dr. Locke Rowe, [locke.rowe@utoronto.ca](mailto:locke.rowe@utoronto.ca) (weeks 7-12)

See [individual section details](#) for more contact information.

## When and where

Thursdays, 2-4PM

[Bb Collaborate](#)

## Course description

In this course we will develop the ability to read, present, and discuss scientific literature critically. These are essential skills for every scientist (and useful skills for everyone) and can also be one of the most enjoyable aspects of science. By the end of the course we hope you will be more comfortable understanding, contextualizing, and criticizing the primary scientific literature, and more comfortable presenting scientific ideas verbally and in writing.

*Prerequisite:* A minimum of 1.0 FCE in EEB courses at the 300+ level (at least 0.5 FCE in ecology and 0.5 FCE in evolutionary biology is highly recommended)

## Group norms

The University of Toronto is committed to equity, human rights and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect where all members of our community can express themselves, engage with each other, and respect one another's differences. U of T does not condone discrimination or harassment against any persons or communities.

[Code of Student Conduct](#)

[Netiquette](#)

## Required texts

None

## Required software

We will be using Bb Collaborate for synchronous online meetings. You do not need to download anything. To connect follow [these instructions](#).

You will need reliable internet. Please let the instructors know if this will be a problem. For slower internet speeds, connect via ethernet (rather than wi-fi) if possible, close unneeded applications, and/or turn off your webcam or audio when not needed.

[Recommended technology for online learning](#)

# Grading

## Written assignments (60%)

Each instructor will allocate 30% of your final grade to written assignments. You can submit 4 written assignments (by the start of class on the weeks that you are not presenting) and your top 3 will each be worth 10%.

## Presentations (20%)

Each instructor will allocate 10% of your final grade to an oral presentation (so you will do two in the course).

## Discussions (20%)

Each instructor will allocate 10% of your final grade to participating in class discussions.

## Exams

There are no exams

## Course webpage

All course information will be posted on [Quercus](#) or emailed to you directly through your utoronto email. If you have any problem accessing the material, let us know right away via email so we can fix the problem.

Further details about assignments and presentations will be posted on Quercus and discussed in the first meeting of each instructor's section.

## Writing help and integrity

Writing is a big part of this course. Please see the [Writing Centre](#) for advice, courses, and support.

Make sure you [know how not to plagiarize](#). Note that it is not appropriate to use large sections of text from internet sources, and inserting a few of your own words does not make it an original piece of writing. Make sure you read material from many sources in the primary literature and that you write an original text using this information. Always cite your sources. In case of doubt about plagiarism, talk to your instructor. See [Academic Integrity](#) for more information.

[More on academic integrity](#).

## Accessibility

The University provides academic accommodations for students with disabilities in accordance with the terms of the [Ontario Human Rights Code](#). This occurs through a collaborative process that acknowledges a collective obligation to develop an accessible learning environment that both meets the needs of students and preserves the essential academic requirements of the University's courses and programs.

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have a disability that may require accommodations, please feel free to email the instructors and/or the [Accessibility Services office](#).

## Religious observances

The University provides reasonable accommodation of the needs of students who observe religious holy days other than those already accommodated by ordinary scheduling and statutory holidays. Students have a responsibility to alert members of the teaching staff in a timely fashion to upcoming religious observances and anticipated absences and instructors will make every reasonable effort to avoid scheduling tests, examinations or other compulsory activities at these times.

Please reach out to the instructors as early as possible to communicate any anticipated absences related to religious observances, and to discuss any possible related implications for course work.

## Family care responsibilities

The University of Toronto strives to provide a family-friendly environment. You may wish to inform the instructors if you are a student with family responsibilities. If you are a student parent or have family responsibilities, you also may wish to visit the [Family Care Office website](#).

## Student support

[CTSI list of supports](#)

[Getting ready for online](#)

[5 tips for online learning](#)

[Academic success module](#)

[Student Online Course Planning and Resources](#)

[Get help with Quercus](#)