

University of Victoria – Department of Biology

Food Web Ecology, BIOL 468

Spring 2024

Course description

This course builds on previous courses in ecology to evaluate the processes shaping the structure and dynamics of food webs. Lectures will rely on a combination of both theory and empirical examples, with a strong dose of practical application to conservation and management. Lectures will be drawn from the following topics: food web structural organization, competition, predator-prey interactions, age- and size-structured interactions, transfer rates in food webs, nutrient-driven aquatic food webs, spatial food webs, disease-mediated food webs, human-dominated food webs, diversity-stability, and food web superstructure. There is no course textbook, but obligatory (and testable) readings will be assigned that relate to course material.

Through this course it is intended that students will develop

22 Jan	M	5	Lids	Cat Stevens lecture Last day for 100% rtion of tuition fees
25 Jan	Th	6	Lipids	Cat Stevens lecture Last day for adding courses
29 Jan	M	7	Isotopes	Cat Stevens lecture
01 Feb	Th	8	DNA Barcoding	Cat Stevens lecture
05 Feb	M	9	Nutrients, phytoplankton, and zooplankton	

15 Feb	Th	12	Mid-term exam	
19 Feb	M			Reading week
22 Feb	Th			Reading week
26 Feb	M	13	Disturbance and food webs	
29 Feb	Th	14	Spatial food webs	Last day for withdrawing from courses without penalty of failure
04 Mar	M	15	Spatial food webs	
07 Mar	Th	16	Disease-mediated food webs	
11 Mar	M	17	Human-dominated food webs	
14 Mar	Th	18	Human-dominated food webs	
18 Mar	M	19	Diversity, productivity, and stability	
21 Mar	Th	20		

