COURSE TITLE: Gateway to Graduate Studies in Biology
COURSE NUMBER: Biol-824
TERM OFFERED: Fall 2018 (2189)
INSTRUCTOR: F. Bonier (bonierf@queensu.ca; Biosci 3523)

SCHEDULE: Intensive, 7-week course with 90-minute class sessions twice weekly (Mondays & Fridays 11:30am-1pm). Class runs from October 15th through November 30th in BIOSCI 4338 (EEB room). Two mandatory weekend sessions Oct 20th and 21st.

Outline of Topics:

The overall goal of this course is to introduce intellectual and professional skills important for success in graduate school and in careers in Biology. Course structure and content is applicable to all fields of biology, from ecology and evolution to cell biology, biochemistry, and molecular biology.

Topics will include:
The scientific method, strong inference, study design, natural history, statistical analysis, communication in science (written and oral), proposal writing, the publishing process, scientific misconduct, work-life balance, mentoring, and more. The final assignment for the course will be a written and orally-presented research proposal for the student's graduate thesis project.

Method of Instruction and Hours Per week:
The course will include 7 weeks of twice weekly 90-minute class sessions. The combined hours for weekend sessions, in-class portion, and independent work (hands-on work, readings, and writing assignments) is expected to sum to approximately 110-120 hours for the semester (so this is a full 3cr course).

Student Assessment: Tentatively, students will be marked on participation in discussion, activities (10%), mini study (15%), draft of abstract (5%), final abstract (10%), draft of proposal (10%), final oral proposal presentation (20%), peer evaluations of 3 draft proposals (5%), and final proposal (25%). NOTE: Students enrolled in the accelerated MSc program may not submit their BIOL537 proposal or present their BIOL537 oral presentation to satisfy the requirements of this course.

Readings from the primary and secondary literature. No required text.

Prerequisite and Assumed Background: This course is appropriate for all MCIB and EEB graduate students, and is particularly recommended for new students. PhD students are welcomed.

Equivalent: none