**COURSE: BIOL-369\* Sex and Evolution**

**TERM: Fall 2024**

**Coordinator: A. Chippindale**

SUMMARY:

Biology 369 provides an introduction to the origins and sweeping evolutionary significance of sexual reproduction. The course spans a range of topics from the genetics of recombination to sex chromosomes, sexual selection, mating systems, and sexual conflicts. The course includes detailed discussion of the nature of sex differences in animals and plants and the concept of gender. Much of the course, including the tutorial component and all written assignments, is based upon recent studies from the primary literature. Biology 369 TAs provide an important extension to the formal lectures by leading tutorial discussions and debates on current topics, and grading students for their contributions. Tutorials are designed to foster critical thinking skills, and TAs must be able to handle and encourage discussion of potentially contentious topics, being receptive to alternative perspectives. The course has a strong writing component and TAs provide important instruction and feedback on papers, as well as helping to grade tests. It is essential that TAs have strong communication skills, as noted below.

DUTIES:

1) Tutorials are based upon a selection of short primary literature papers no more than one year old. TAs optionally help select these papers, and they prepare for and lead five 50 minute tutorial discussion groups (groups of up to 28 students). TAs will grade several short assignments and answer student questions about tutorial material.

2) There is a major paper in the form of a magazine article. TAs assist the instructor in directing students to appropriate research materials for preparation of the paper, provide feedback on the proposal, and ultimately grade the finished article. Grading this project requires good time management skills of the TA and it is recommended that only graduate students with strong writing skills take this course on.

3) To attend weekly TA meetings.

4) To assist in marking midterms and final examinations, as required.

EVALUATION:

TAs will receive feedback on grading of assignments throughout the course and an evaluation of their performance at the end of term. This evaluation will be provided by the Course Coordinator. The coordinator may conduct a short survey of the effectiveness of the tutorials to supplement feedback and help improve future iterations of the course.

**PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

All Biology TAs are required to adhere to the University's Code of Conduct, as described in Section 12 of the Queen's Graduate Calendar, and Section 4 of the Guide to Graduate Studies in Biology. As teachers of undergraduates, TAs are expected to recognize the seriousness of all forms of Academic Dishonesty, Harassment and Discrimination and to understand the rules governing such cases at Queen's.

**PROCEDURES FOR RESOLVING PROBLEMS BETWEEN TAs and INSTRUCTORS**

Please refer to the Collective Agreement at the following link:

<http://queensu.ca/facultyrelations/teaching-assistants-and-fellows/collective-agreement>