Why take a field course?

• Real problems in real environments (contrasts with lack of labs or limitations of labs in other courses)
• Hands-on learning is different
• Closer contact with professors and other students
• Most students rate their field courses as the ‘best course I took at McGill’
Why study applied ecology?

• **Important problems for society**
  – Agriculture → Agro/ecological systems
  – Fisheries
  – Conservation management
  – Health → disease transmission
  – Pollution and remediation
• **Potential jobs for students in ecology**

Why study the tropics?

• **Different organisms and ecosystems**
• **High diversity**
• **Site of many practical problems**
Where is Barbados?
Facilities at Bellairs

Seabourne House
Shore at Bellairs

West block dorms
The board room
Conference room and library
Instructors for May 2017 (tentative)

- Professor Thomas Bureau
  - Molecular Biology
- Professor Neil Price
  - Biological oceanography
- Professor Frederic Guichard
  - Theoretical and marine ecology

Organization of the course

- Montreal
  - Readings
  - Take-home exam during the winter term
- Barbados
  - Arrival (Friday 4th) and orientation (1 day)
  - Rotation among 3 modules (1 day each; total 3 days)
  - Collaborative research project (7 days; each student in one project only)
  - Travel to other areas of ecological interest on Barbados (2 days)
  - Packing and departure (Friday the 18th)
Tentative Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>AM</th>
<th>PM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>May 4, 2018 Arrival</td>
<td>Orientation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>May 5, 2018 Orientation Module 1</td>
<td>Module 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>May 6, 2018 Module 1</td>
<td>Module 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>May 7, 2018 Module 2</td>
<td>Module 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>May 8, 2018 Module 3</td>
<td>Module 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>May 9, 2018 North Point</td>
<td>Walchman Gully (packed lunch)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>May 10, 2018 St. Nicholas Abbey (lunch)</td>
<td>Projects planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>May 11, 2018 Projects</td>
<td>Projects (dinner at fish market)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>May 12, 2018 Projects</td>
<td>Morgan Lewis (dinner on the beach)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>May 13, 2018 Projects</td>
<td>Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>May 14, 2018 Projects</td>
<td>Projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>May 15, 2018 Projects</td>
<td>Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>May 16, 2018 Projects</td>
<td>Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>May 17, 2018 Projects</td>
<td>Symposium - BBQ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>May 18, 2018 Projects</td>
<td>Clean up</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Coral Reef ecosystem
Biological Oceanography

East coast ecosystems
Molecular ecology

Barbados Sea Turtle Project
Collaborative Projects

- Intensive focus on one project with professor(s)
- Related to modules but not the same
- Limited numbers per project because of space per vehicle

Collaborative Project Organization

- Organizing (often in collaboration with local experts or organization)
- Field and library research
- Analysis and interpretation of data
- Written and oral final report
Course Evaluation

• Take-home exam (30%)
• Participation in the modules (20%)
• Collaborative project (50%)

Costs

• Normal course costs
  – Tuition
  – Supplementary Fee ($1551.05 + 2.7% increase)
  – Two payments ($500 deposit in December and balance charged to your student account in the spring)
  – Covers room and board in Barbados, additional course expenses such as vehicle rental and boat use, but not tuition

• Additional personal costs
  – Airfare and meals in transit
  – Cancellation insurance, airport taxes, & taxi to and from Bellairs
  – Supplementary health insurance
  – Personal expenses
Getting more for your money

• Cheap holiday in Barbados before or after course
• NSERC summer research awards
• Gathering data for independent studies or honours projects
• Volunteer or paid research assistance

Warnings

• Pre-requisites: ecology and lab course and permission
• Timing of graduation
• Health
• Diet
• Swimming ability but not SCUBA diving
• Attitude
Key dates

- Dec 6th, 2017 Application forms submitted to Prof Guichard
- ~Dec. 9, 2017 List of participants posted
- Dec. 19, 2017 Departmental registration form and initial deposit are due (balance billed on student accounts).
- *Feb. 2018 Take-home exam available
- *March, 2018 Planning meeting for all participants. Compulsory. N7/1, 17:30

Questions?