

A WELCOME TO ALL STUDENTS IN NATURAL SCIENCE

An excursion into the world of Science!

www.nats.yorku.ca

We are located in Room 218, Bethune College! Please feel free to contact us about any matter related to your studies in the Division of Natural Science. Our counter hours are 9:00am-4:00pm, Monday through Friday. Your welfare and progress in your encounter with science is of the utmost importance to us. If you have suggestions, comments or concerns, please communicate them to us either in person or via email (natsci@yorku.ca). Please avail yourself as the need arises of the various services offered by the Division including [M-AID-in-NATS](#) (Mathematical Aid in Natural Science), a support service designed to assist all students in better interpreting analytical and mathematical concepts. For some classes, [LABS-in-NATS](#) is also available to support those students engaged in laboratory exercises. Of particular note is [NATS-Aid](#), a student peer support group that is available to all participants in our courses. These experienced students can assist you in forming study groups, finding tutors or generally talking through issues you may be having in the course.

Be sure to check out our website regularly to catch up on any new information about the Division. While your individual course websites (including Moodle/WebCT) have a wealth of information pertinent to your studies, additional science links and contact resources can be found at the main Natural Science website. Above all, plan to enjoy yourself in your course, enquire 'Why is it so?' and excel in the world of science!

Class Representatives

Each course will be given an opportunity early in the Fall term during the lecture session to choose a class representative(s) who will be in a position to discuss issues arising from the class with both the Course Director and the Director of the Division of Natural Science throughout the year. There will also be a general meeting of representatives each term (arranged by NATS-Aid) to voice comments, compare concerns and share successful learning strategies. Class representative appointments/elections should be completed by October. Consider getting involved and improving the learning environment.

Important Course Dates

	Term F	Term Y	Term W
Last date to enrol without permission of course instructor	Sept. 26	Sept. 26	Jan. 17
Last date to enrol with permission of course instructor	Oct. 8	Oct. 29	Jan. 31
Last date to drop courses without receiving a grade	Nov. 12	Feb. 11	March 4
Last Date to Announce Components of Final Grades (revised May 21, 2010)	Nov. 12	Feb. 11	March 4

Please note that although permission may be granted by the Course Director, FINAL approval will be granted by the department administrator.

(<http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/importantdates/fw10.htm>).

Grades

Grades in Natural Science courses are assigned in the manner described by the Faculty of Science and Engineering, in the University Calendar, which appears under "**Regulations Governing Examinations and Academic Standards**". Only the Registrar's Office can release official grades. All grades quoted by your Course Director on course websites **must be considered unofficial**.

(<http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/importantdates/fw10.htm#grades>)

- Student Responsibilities and Conduct

- Students are responsible for knowing the name and number of their course, and the names of the lecturers and tutorial or laboratory personnel with whom they have contact. This information should be provided at the beginning of the course and is available on the course outline.

For your information, the York University Telephone number is **(416) 736-2100**, followed by the extension number of the party, if known. If not known, wait for the University operator to respond. Alternately use the e-mail and phone [directory](#) on the main York website. The Division's Course Directors are listed on the Division's website under [NATS Teaching Faculty](#).

- The student's attention is drawn to the [Student Code of Conduct](#). Amongst other things, this means that attendance at lectures is taken as an agreement not to disrupt proceedings by creating disturbances of any kind that interfere with the learning experience of other students. Since attendance at lectures is not mandatory, those who wish to carry on social functions during the lecture period must do so in some other appropriate place.
- The [Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#) details the definitions and penalties for cheating and plagiarism. Students with course-work problems are encouraged to seek help from tutors, course directors or from this office. In the event of persistent or serious offences, attention is drawn to the right of the University to invoke any civil, criminal or other remedies which may be available to it as a matter of law.

If an exam or class needs to be missed because of religious reasons, you should read the [Religious Observance Policy](#) and act accordingly. (<http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/>).

- Students missing quizzes, tests, examinations or deadlines for submission of assignments must contact the Course Director as soon as practical and provide satisfactory evidence of a genuine reason for absence to avoid loss of credit. This will normally be in the form of a medical certificate or some equivalent documentation. The person who signed the document must be clearly identified and will be contacted by the Division of Natural Science for confirmation. Please note that it is an indictable offence to forge documentation from licensed professionals.

Awards

The C.B. Cragg Awards, in memory of the first Natural Science Director, consist of a cash award given to students of good academic standing who demonstrate a special ability to contribute to a Natural Science course in a meaningful way. Students are usually nominated by the Course Director, with input from teaching assistants.

Remember, be an advocate for your own success in your Natural Science course. Whenever any questions arise be sure to ask your course director in a timely manner. Have a successful and enjoyable year!

Paul Delaney
Director, Division of Natural Science