

SALISH COAST

April 26 – May 31, 2027

FACULTY OF NATURAL & APPLIED SCIENCE

Students will spend one week on the TWU campus preparing for the field. This travel study includes three weeks on Galiano Island and one week on Alder Island, where students will stay in beautiful waterfront accommodations while immersing themselves in the region's diverse ecosystems. During the Marine Ecology course, students will explore a variety of intertidal habitats and open ocean environments, gaining hands-on experience investigating the remarkable diversity of marine life found along the coast. Through the Plant Ecology course, students will develop practical field identification and ecological survey skills while exploring trail systems. They will also spend time at TWU's Crow's Nest Ecological Research Area, home to a rare Garry oak meadow community that is considered one of Canada's most threatened terrestrial ecosystems.



TRINITY WESTERN UNIVERSITY

SALISH COAST TRAVEL STUDY

Travel Dates: April 26 – May 31, 2027

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

1. Explore coastal ecosystem diversity

Investigate the biodiversity, ecological interactions, and processes that shape the interconnected marine, intertidal, and plant communities of the Salish Sea.

2. Develop field ecology skills

Gain hands-on experience with ecological field methods, species identification, data collection, and scientific research in both marine and terrestrial environments.

3. Cultivate environmental stewardship

Foster an understanding of conservation, sustainability, and responsible stewardship through immersive field experiences, community engagement, and ecological restoration.

COURSES

BIOL 316 TR /GENV 316 TR - PLANT ECOLOGY

This course examines the crucial role of plant ecology in shaping major habitats, including those in British Columbia. It also addresses the theme of critical assessment of planetary stewardship across various issues in plant ecology. Field trips throughout the course will highlight the population dynamics and interrelationships of plant communities in natural habitats, agricultural crops, and managed forests. A trip to Salt Spring Island will highlight the threatened Garry oak ecosystem and other features of interest. **Prerequisite(s): BIOL 103, 104, and 105; or BIOL 113, 114.**

BIOL 362 TR /GENV 362 TR - MARINE ECOLOGY

This course is a study of the ecological relationships of marine life in several major habitat types. Emphasis is on productivity, food webs, nutrient cycling, and community ecology. Ecosystem parameters are investigated through field and laboratory studies. Most of the field work takes place at many beach sites around both Galiano and Alder Island. **Prerequisite(s): Advanced standing in biology and instructor's consent. BIOL 308 and/or 360 strongly recommended.**

INSTRUCTORS

ELIZABETH ZWAMBORN, PH.D

Elizabeth Zwamborn is a professor of Biology at Trinity Western University. A former TWU alum, she completed her graduate studies in Nova Scotia before returning to teach here full-time in 2023. Dr. Zwamborn's research is focused on the behavioural ecology of whales and dolphins, including decision-making and other elements of group life.

DAVID CLEMENTS, PH.D

David Clements is a professor of Biology and Environmental Studies at Trinity Western University, where he has taught since 1994. Dr. Clements has researched ecological issues such as Garry Oak Ecosystem restoration in the BC Gulf Islands, biological invasions in the Fraser River watershed, and Mile-a-Minute Weed in China's Yunnan Province. He spent a sabbatical year in 2025-26 investigating invasive tamarisk along the Rio Grande River in New Mexico.

QR CODE FOR APPLICATION



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