

LAB SYLLABUS
BIOL 4403/5407 Herpetology Fall 2016

Instructor: Sean P. Graham, PhD
Laboratory: M 3:00-4:45 WSB 107
Office: WSB 221
MC TA: Tomas Hernandez

Office Hours: MWF 11-12; T TR 2-3
Office phone: 837-8084
Email: sean.graham@sulross.edu

Laboratory: Much of the material covered in lecture will be enhanced and expanded in the laboratory component of this course. You will be tested on this material during the scheduled exam periods. You need to check Blackboard to download and print any lab notes preceding each meeting. Field trips are tentatively scheduled, and I encourage you to attend. Seeing reptiles and amphibians in the field is not only enjoyable but will enhance your appreciation and understanding of the material being presented in lecture and laboratory. The finalized dates of field trips will be announced in class.

Venomous Snakes: Never pick up a snake you even THINK might be venomous. If you aren't certain the snake is non-venomous, do not pick it up. If you have doubts, do not pick it up. Even non-venomous bites hurt.

Supplies:

- herpetology field guide (optional, but would be a wise investment)
- **REQUIRED** field notebook; pencil or waterproof pen
- snake stick/tongs (optional)
- potato rake (optional)

Lab Grading:

3 lab practicals @ 50 pts ea	300
Class participation	50
TOTAL	350 points

Lab grades will be added to lecture grades for a single grade.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) for Biology:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of evolution by natural selection
2. *Demonstrate an integration of environmental awareness into everyday modern life**
3. Understand how to incorporate molecular biology into the study of whole organisms
4. *Demonstration utilization of various field techniques toward addressing scientific questions in the discipline**
5. Conduct basic laboratory experiments utilizing standard observational strategies

*These PLOs will be the focus of course assessments.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

WEEK	DAY / DATE	TOPIC
2	Aug 29	Introduction; U.S. herp families
3	Sept 05	Labor Day, no labs
4	Sept 12	Salamanders, Frogs
	Sept 17	Rio Grande field trip; catchin' turtles with Ciara
5	Sept 19	Frogs cont. Frog Dissection
6	Sept 26	Lab Practical #1
	Oct 1-3 EPIC HERP WEEKEND FIELD TRIP to BIG BEND III!	
7	Oct 3	Lizards Part I
	Oct 8 Saturday Special Midland Herp field trip Monahans Sand Dunes	
8	Oct 10	Field Herpetology techniques
9	Oct 17	Lizards Part II
	Oct 21-23 Graduate student field trip: special herp techniques	
10	Oct 24	Lizard dissection
	Oct 29 Saturday Special Herp field trip	
11	Oct 31	Lab Practical #2
12	Nov 7	Snakes Part I
13	Nov 14	Snakes & Turtles
14	Nov 21	Snake dissection
15	Nov 28	Lab Practical #3 (last day of classes for lab)

*Students with any learning disabilities will be provided with accommodations.
If you would like to request such accommodation because of a physical, mental, or learning disability, please contact the ADA coordinator at 837-8203, FH 112.*