



BIO 4403 – Herpetology

Fall 2016, Wednesdays 4:00-8:45 PM

Instructor: Dr. Kevin V. Young
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Office hours: Monday – Thursday (Del Rio) 10:00am – 12:00noon
or by appointment (or online by request)

Required Texts: Herpetology, 4th ed.; Vitt and Caldwell; 776 pgs. (2013); Elsevier;
ISBN 978-0-12-386919-7.
At least one field guide for reptiles and/or amphibians (your choice)

Website: **Blackboard** site for Herpetology. I post announcements frequently as well as content, assignments, and quizzes.

Student Learning Outcomes: This course is designed to introduce you to the extant members of the Classes Amphibia and Reptilia (except birds). We will explore diversity and evolution of both groups and study, in depth, certain aspects of their biology. Coverage will be world-wide, but with greater focus on Texas species. The laboratory will focus on identification and also understanding of morphological adaptations. We meet only once per week and will divide the time between lecture and lab.

Tentative Lecture Schedule. Exact dates subject to change.

Date	Topic(s)	Readings
Aug. 24	Introduction to Herpetology	pp 3 –46
Aug. 31	Phylogeny, Systematics, and Tetrapod Evolution	Ch 1
Sept. 7	Amphibian Evolution, Caecilians, Salamanders	Ch 3, 15, 16
Sept. 14	Anurans	Ch 2, 3, 17
Sept. 21	Amphibian Natural History	Ch 4, 5, 9, 10, 11
Sept. 28	Review and Test 1	
Oct. 5	Reptile evolution, Turtles	Ch 2, 3, 18
Oct. 12	Crocodylians and Sphenodontids	Ch 2, 19, 20
Oct. 19	Lizards	Ch 2, 21
Oct. 26	Snakes	Ch 2, 22
Nov. 2	Reptile Natural History	Ch 4, 5, 9, 10, 11
Nov. 9	Review and Test 2	
Nov. 16	Conservation Biology and Management	Ch 14
Nov. 23	<i>Thanksgiving Holidays – No Classes</i>	pp 723 – 767
Nov. 30	Student Research Presentations	
Dec. 7	Final Exam	

Grade assessment:

There will be 3 exams, which will include both lecture and laboratory components, and your full participation in class activities will also count. There will be occasional assignments, quizzes, and extra readings. You will also be required to research and present on a topic of interest. Participation on at least one field trip is also expected. Although the point values for all these activities have not been determined in advance, we will follow the standard grading protocol:

<u>Percent</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
90 – 100%	A
80 – 89.9%	B
70 – 79.9%	C
60 – 69.9%	D
< 60%	F

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartze, M. Ed., L.P.C., in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8691. E-mail: mschwartze@sulross.edu

Academic Honesty:

Cheating will not be tolerated. The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. "Cheating" includes, but is not limited to:

- Copying from another student's test paper, a laboratory report, other report, or computer files, data listings, and/or programs.
- Using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test.
- Collaborating, without authorization, with another person during an examination or in preparing academic work.
- Knowingly, and without authorization, using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, soliciting, copying, or possessing, in whole or in part, the contents of an unadministered test.
- Substituting for another student; permitting any other person; or otherwise assisting any other person to substitute for oneself or for another student in the taking of an examination or test or the preparation of academic work to be submitted for academic credit.
- Bribing another person to obtain an unadministered test or information about an unadministered test.
- Purchasing, or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one's own work any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm. This section does not apply to the typing of the rough and/or final versions of an assignment by a professional typist.
- Plagiarism: using another's work and claiming it as your own. To avoid plagiarism, make sure you always use your own words to construct your written answers, and cite your sources.

Is education defined as something you can spit back on a test by staying up all night? Is that education? Or is it defined by what you remember after a year? Nobody's going to give much importance to what you memorized and then forgot.

~Dr. Bruce Alberts, past president of National Academy of Sciences