

**LAB SYLLABUS**  
**BIOL 4404/5404 Ornithology Spring 2017**

**Instructor:** Sean P. Graham, PhD  
**Laboratory:** Monday 3-415 WSB 107  
**Office:** WSB 221  
**MC TA:** Tomas Hernandez

**Office Hours:** M-F 11-12  
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**Laboratory:** Much of the material covered in lecture will be greatly 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, you are required to attend at least three to obtain all laboratory participation points. Seeing birds 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. Field trips and keeping a field notebook are excellent practice for bird taxonomy and nomenclature and will help with lab practicals and lecture exams.

**Attendance:** is required for labs. No lab make ups are possible. Missing labs will seriously hinder your ability to make good grades on lab practicals, and I will penalize you for missing labs by taking away lab participation points. Lab practicals are impossible to re-take. Missing a lab practical will result in a 0 for that test, and this will seriously affect your grade.

**Supplies:**

- Bird field guide (optional, but would be a wise investment)
- field notebook; pencil or waterproof pen
- Binoculars

**Lab Grading:**

3 lab practicals @ 100 pts ea	300
Field notebook/participation	50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>350 points</b>

To obtain all field trip participation points, you must attend all of the in-class field trips. These will be held locally and you will have the ability to return to campus or stay later and see more birds. In addition, your participation in these outings will be judged for full credit. You must also sign up for at least one of the weekend field trips. Laboratory participation will be similarly judged. Only students actively engaged in activities will be given full credit; slackers and spongers will not. Participation in the optional weekend field trip will be considered excellent grounds for receiving full participation credit, as long as attendance or participation issues do not arise.

**Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) for Biology:**

1. Demonstrate a mastery of aerobic respiration and its significance for living organisms.
2. Be able to identify evolution and the processes that influence it.
3. Be able to identify the components of cell structure and their functions.
4. Compare the fundamental concepts of Mendelian genetics.
5. Compare and contrast the process of photosynthesis to other cellular processes.
6. Be able to identify the processes of molecular biology.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)**

Week	Topic	week of
1		
2	No lab first week (MLK day)	20-Jan
3	Introduction: World bird orders, feather anatomy	26-Jan
4	Dissection, wing, foot, and beak adaptations, and U.S. bird families	2-Feb
5	Field Trip: Winter Birds	9-Feb
6	Trans Pecos birds: Waterfowl and Shorebirds	16-Feb
6	Trans Pecos birds: Fowl and raptors	23-Feb
7	<b>Saturday Field Trip: Serious Winter Birding</b>	<b>28-Feb</b>
8	<b>Lab practical #1</b>	2-Mar
	Field trip: aquatic birds and spring migration	9-Mar
9	Spring Break	March 15-20
10		Spring Break
11	Trans Pecos birds: cuckoos, nightjars, hummingbirds, woodpeckers and passerines I	23-Mar
11	Field trip: Spring migration of land birds	30-Apr
12	<b>Saturday field trip: banding hummingbirds</b>	<b>3-Apr</b>
13	Trans Pecos birds: Passerines II	6-Apr
14	<b>Lab practical 2</b>	13-Apr
14	<b>Epic optional Big Bend Weekend Field Trip! April 17-19</b>	17-Apr -19 April
15	Trans Pecos birds: Passerines III	20 April
16	Trans Pecos birds: Passerines IV	27-Apr
		4-May

*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.*