

**Biology 4404 – Ornithology
Spring 2019**

Instructor: Dr. Dan H. Foley III
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Office hours: Monday – Thursday 10:00am – 11:00am
or by appointment

Required Texts: Gill, Frank B. 2007. Ornithology, Third edition. W. H. Freeman and Company. New York, New York. 758 pp.

Course Objective: There are five broad goals for this course:

- The main goal is to *understand* why and how birds are so diverse. To that end, students will need to learn the major aspects of bird biology and analyze them carefully and logically from different points of view.
- The identification of birds (and their behavior) in the lab and the field will allow students to appreciate the ecological and evolutionary basis of their diversity.
- To learn how to identify most of the birds found in Texas & the eastern United States
- Students are expected to develop their critical and analytical skills by participating in group activities during class and by carrying out a short research project, which will also enhance their writing and oral communication skills in order to make ideas about birds accessible to others.
- This course endeavors to develop an enhanced appreciation of birds through increasing knowledge.

Tentative Lecture Schedule

(note: exact date are subject to change, be sure to keep abreast of changes).

Date	Topic	Readings
ORIGINS		
Jan. 23	Introduction / Diversity of Birds	Chapter 1
Jan. 30	History	Chapter 2
Feb. 6	Systematics	Chapter 3
Feb. 13	EXAM I (Chapters 1 – 3)	
	Feathers	Chapter 4
FORM & FUNCTION		
Feb. 20	Flight	Chapter 5
Feb. 27	Physiology	Chapter 6
March 6	EXAM II (Chapters 4 – 6)	
	The Annual Cycle of Birds	Chapter 9
BEHAVIOR & THE ENVIRONMENT		
March 13	Migration & Navigation	Chapter 10
March 20	<i>Spring Break – No Classes</i>	
March 27	Social Behavior	Chapter 11
April 3	EXAM III (Chapters 9 – 11)	
	Mates	Chapter 12
AVIAN LIFE HISTORIES		
April 10	Breeding Systems	Chapter 13
April 17	Bird Sex	Chapter 14
AVIAN COMMUNICATION & LIFE HISTORIES		
April 24	EXAM IV (Chapter 12 – 14)	
	Vocalizations	Chapter 8
May 1	Nests & Incubation	Chapter 15
	Parents & Their Offspring	Chapter 16
May 8	EXAM V (Chapters 8, 15 – 16)	

Grade assessment:

There will be **5 lecture** examinations and **3** laboratory exams (practical format). Each lecture and laboratory exam will be worth 100 points. The lecture portion of the class will represent approximately 50% of your overall grade. There will be **no make-up exams – no exceptions!**

Exam Dates:

- Exam I – February 13th
- Exam II – March 6th
- Exam III – April 3rd
- Exam IV – April 24th
- Final Exam – May 8th

Practical Dates:

- Practical I – February 27th
- Practical II – April 10th
- Practical III – May 1st

Questions will be drawn from information presented in lecture, contained in the text, and through occasional class notes, handouts or additional assigned readings. Exam questions may consist of a few definitions or vocabulary/concepts, multiple choice questions and short essay questions. No notes, books, cell phones, PDA's, or other materials will be allowed during the exam. I will provide an English dictionary for your use if necessary. If you are and ESL student, please contact me to make arrangements for use of foreign language dictionaries and translators.

Ornithology laboratory

The laboratory period will be used to acquaint you with many of the birds in the south central region of Texas.

Tentative Lab Schedule

Date	Topic
January 23	Introduction, Syllabus, <u>Video - To Fly or Not to Fly</u>
January 30	Internal and skeletal anatomy
February 6	Paper #1 critique due <u>Video - The Insatiable Appetite</u> Bird identification: <i>Gaviiformes, Podicipediformes, Pelecaniformes & Ciconiiformes</i>
February 13.....	Bird identification: <i>Anseriformes</i> Field Trip – Lake Amistad
February 20	Paper #2 critique due <u>Video - The Mastery of Flight</u> Bird identification: <i>Falconiformes & Galliformes</i>
February 27	Lab Practical I

March 6	Bird identification: <i>Gruiformes & Charadriiformes</i>
March 13	Paper #3 critique due Bird identification: <i>Columbiformes, Cuculiformes & Strigiformes</i> Field Trip – Del Rio Laguna de Plata
March 20	Spring Break – No Classes
March 27	Paper #4 critique due Bird identification: <i>Caprimulgiformes, Apodiforme, Coraciiformes & Piciformes</i> Field Trip – Del Rio San Felipe Creek
April 3	<u>Video – Finding Partners</u> Bird Identification: <i>Passeriformes</i>
April 10	Lab Practical II
April 17	Research Paper Due <u>Video - Signals and Songs</u> Bird identification: <i>Passeriformes continued</i>
April 24	<u>Video - The Demands of the Egg</u> Bird identification: <i>Passeriformes continued</i>
May 1	Lab Practical III

3 laboratory practicals will be given during the course of this class. Each practical will be worth 100 points. The laboratory portion of this class will represent approximately 30% of your overall grade.

Writing Component:

4 reviews/critiques of recent ornithological literature are required. You will search the recent (2010 – 2017) ornithological literature and write a 2 page review and critique of your selection. Each review will be worth 25 points. Additionally, you will prepare a more thorough research paper on a current topic in ornithology. You may choose your own topic, but all choices must be approved by the instructor. One person per topic, first come first served. Satisfactory performance on this research paper will require a summary of a least 7 relevant journal articles. Your articles must be from *peer-reviewed* journals. Papers should be about 7 - 8 written pages (not including the literature cited). Papers will be graded on content, organization, and writing quality. Your research paper will be worth 100 points.

Extra Credit

There will be **NO** opportunities for extra credit, so don't even ask!

Therefore, there are a total of 1000 possible points during this course:

5 lecture exam scores (100 pts each)	500
3 lab practical's (100 pts each).....	300
4 paper critiques (25 pts each).....	100
Research paper.....	100
<u>Total</u>	<u>1000</u>

<u>Total points</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
900 – 1000	90 – 100%	A
800 – 899	80 – 89%	B
700 – 799	70 – 79%	C
600 – 699	60 – 69%	D
599 or less	> 60%	F

Study Tips:

Everyone has there own unique way of learning. How you study rather than how long you study will have a huge impact on your grade in this course. If you use all the resources available to you and take an active role in the learning process you will likely do much better.

Some specific tips are:

- Spend 15 – 20 minutes to skim through each reading assignment before class.
- Review the lecture notes and read the assigned reading
- Try to draw diagrams from lecture and the book from memory
- Make flash cards or important concepts and terms
- Call up a friend and try to explain what you have learned in class
- **ASK QUESTIONS!** You are not in this class alone, if you don't understand something, more than likely your classmates also don't understand.

Attendance:

This is an upper division college course. You are an adult, and you paid for this course. I will not be taking roll call. However, material for the exams will come largely from my lectures, so it is in your best interest to come and participate in class.

Disabled Students:

Reasonable accommodations will be provided for students with disabilities. Please meet with me the first week of class to discuss any special needs you may need.

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 will not be tolerated. "Plagiarism" means the appropriation and the unacknowledged incorporation of another's work or idea into one's own work offered for credit. This includes verbatim written answers by colleagues with whom you might discuss laboratories exercises. Plagiarism also includes copying information from internet resources. To avoid plagiarism, make sure you always use your own words to construct your written answers.