

BIOL 4403 – Herpetology

Fall – 2019

Instructor: Dr. Dan H. Foley III
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Office hours: Monday - Thursday 10:00am – 12:00 noon (Del Rio)
Friday by appointment

Required Texts: Pough, F. Harvey, R. M. Andrews, M.L. Crump, A.H. Savitzky, K.D. Wells and M. C. Brandley. 2016. Herpetology, 4rd edition. Sinauer Associates, Inc.

Course Objective: Students satisfactorily completing this course will:

- Understand the placement of amphibians and reptiles in vertebrate evolution
- Understand the systematics and diversity of extant amphibians and reptiles
- Understand the natural histories, physiology, and feeding mechanisms of amphibians and reptiles
- Understand the behaviors mechanisms such as movements, communication mating and foraging of amphibians and reptiles
- Have the ability to recognize most common amphibians and reptiles found in Texas
- Become familiar with the science of taxonomy (including fundamental concepts and limitations) general field identification methods, and appropriate handling and husbandry techniques where appropriate.

Tentative Lecture Schedule

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

Date	Topic	Readings
August 27	Introduction; Why Study Herps? Systematics & Origin of Herps	Chapter 1 Chapter 2
September 3	Systematics & Diversity of Amphibians	Chapter 3
September 10	Systematics & Diversity of Reptiles	Chapter 4
September 17	Biogeography of Herps	Chapter 5
September 24	Exam 1 (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5)	
October 1	Temperature & water relations	Chapter 6
October 8	Amphibian Reproduction & Life Histories	Chapter 8
October 15	Reptile Reproduction & Life histories	Chapter 9

October 22	Feeding	Chapter 11
October 29	Exam 2 (Chapters 6, 8, 9 & 11)	
November 5	Spatial Ecology	Chapter 12
November 12	Communication	Chapter 13
November 19	Mating Systems & Sexual Selection	Chapter 14
<i>November 26</i>	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday – NO CLASSES –</i>	
December 3	Foraging, & Interactions w/Parasites & Predators	Chapter 15
December 10	Exam 3 (Chapters 12, 13, 14 & 15)	

Grade assessment:

There will be **6 quizzes**, **3 lecture examinations** and **2 laboratory examinations** during this course. Each lecture exam will each be worth 100 points. Each quiz will be worth 25 points; each laboratory exam will be worth 100 points. Therefore there are a total of 650 possible points during the course of this class

Quiz 1	25 points
Quiz 2	25 points
Quiz 3	25 points
Quiz 4	25 points
Quiz 5	25 points
Quiz 6	25 points
Exam I	100 points
Exam II	100 points
Exam III	100 points
Lab exam I	100 points
<u>Lab exam II</u>	<u>100 points</u>
Total	650 points

<u>Total points</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
585 – 650	90 – 100%	A
520 – 584	80 – 89%	B
455 – 519	70 – 79%	C
390 – 454	60 – 69%	D
389 or less	< 60%	F

All exams should be considered comprehensive because information in each chapter/unit builds upon previous material. 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.

Laboratory

The laboratory period will be used to reinforce concepts learned during lecture and used as an opportunity to acquaint students with many of the common amphibians and reptiles of Texas.

Laboratory Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
August 27	No Lab
September 3	Movie " <i>The Cold Blooded Truth</i> "
September 10	Movie " <i>Land Invaders</i> " -Salamanders-
September 17	-Frogs 1-
September 24	-Frogs 2-
October 1	Movie " <i>Armored Giants</i> " -Turtles-
October 8	-Tuatara; Crocodilians-
October 15	Exam 1
October 22	Movie " <i>Dragons of the Day – Lizards</i> " -Lizards 1-
October 29	-Lizards 2-
November 5	Movie " <i>Sophisticated Serpents – Snakes</i> " -Snakes 1-
November 12	-Snakes 2-
November 19	Exam 2

Extra Credit

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

Study Tips:

Everyone has their 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
- Do the study questions at the end of each chapter
- 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.