

**LAB SYLLABUS**  
**BIOL 4403/5407 Herpetology Fall 2020**

**Instructor:** Sean P. Graham, PhD  
**Laboratory:** M 3:00-4:450, 5-6:50 WSB  
107  
**Office:** WSB 221  
**MC TA:** Tomas Hernandez

**Office Hours:** virtual (email) zoom by appt.  
**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.

**Supplies:**

- herpetology field guide (optional, but would be a wise investment)
- **REQUIRED** field notebook; pencil or waterproof pen

**Lab Grading:**

3 lab practicals @ 50 pts ea	300
<u>Class participation</u>	<u>50</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>350 points</b>

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

**Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for Biology:**

- 1) The student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of basic biological concepts, including but not limited to evolution via natural selection, cell theory, and the role and function of DNA.
- 2) The student will be able to demonstrate utilization of various field techniques toward addressing scientific questions in the specific discipline. These field techniques can include, but are not limited to, plant collection and processing, various animal collection techniques, ecological surveying and sampling, and biodiversity indexing.
- 3) The student will be able to use biological instrumentation to solve biological problems using standard observational strategies.
- 4) The student will develop writing skills by summarizing and critiquing recent relevant biological literature.

**Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for Biology, MS:**

1. Understanding and implementation of scientific methodology
2. *Utilization of field techniques toward addressing scientific questions\**
3. Be able to utilize statistics toward the analysis of data within the discipline
4. Be able to effectively disseminate scientific findings using both written and oral communication.

**Marketable Skills:**

- 1) Ability to organize, analyze, and interpret data.
- 2) Proficiency in using presentation software.
- 3) Experience in managing time and meeting deadlines.
- 4) Ability to speak effectively and write concisely about scientific topics.
- 5) Experience in the development of professional email correspondence.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>DAY / DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>
2		Introduction; U.S. herp families
3	Sep 7	<b>Labor Day, no labs.</b>
4		Salamanders, Frogs
5		Frogs cont. Frog Dissection
6	Oct 5	<b>Lab Practical #1</b>
7		Lizards Part I
8		Field Herpetology techniques
9		Lizards Part II
10		Lizard dissection
11	Nov 2	<b>Lab Practical #2</b>
12		Snakes Part I
13		Snakes & Turtles
14		Snake dissection
15	Nov 30	<b>Lab Practical #3</b> (last day of classes for lab)

**Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as Smarthinking, library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through**

**Blackboard, which requires secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.**

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the Student's responsibility to initiate a request. Please contact me, Ms. Rebecca Greathouse Wren, M.Ed., LPC-S, Director/Counselor, Accessibility Services Coordinator, Ferguson Hall (Suite 112) at 432.837.8203; mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Students should then contact the instructor as soon as possible to initiate the recommended accommodations.

### SPECIAL COVID-19 STUFF:

- 1) **Masks:** Face coverings are required indoors and outdoors on SHSU campuses unless you are in a private space or are engaged in an activity for which wearing a covering is impractical. In this class, if a student refuses to wear a mask/wear a mask properly, class will be cancelled, and according to SHSU policy, I will be forced to report the student to the Dean of Students office. Please note that a face mask that has an exhalation valve or vent is not acceptable. <https://www.shsu.edu/katsafe/face-coverings#2d0290a3-7bfe-4a69-9bab-14fb494c332b>
  - 2) **Assigned Seating:** There will be an assigned seating chart for each group to encourage social distancing.
  - 3) **Disinfection of Classroom Surfaces:** Each person should disinfect their space at the beginning and end of each class meeting. The university has provided disinfectant wipes in our classroom. When you enter the classroom, please take a wipe and use it to clean your space before settling in. If possible, please keep that wipe to use again to clean your space before you leave. Although, SHSU will provide access to hand sanitizer at the entrances to classroom buildings, I encourage you to also carry your own sanitizer with you in public.
  - 4) **Orderly Dismissal:** When class is over, I will dismiss students row by row, starting with the row closest to the exit. Each day, I will end class a little early so that you have enough time to wipe down your desk and wait to be dismissed by row.
  - 5) **Food & Drinks:** There will be no eating or drinking in the classroom. If you need to take a sip of your drink during class time, you may leave the room to do so.
  - 6) **Paperwork:** In order to maintain social distancing and reduce the transmission of germs via paper, all paperwork requiring faculty signatures should be sent as digital documents via email, e.g., athletic schedules, doctor's notes, SSD forms, etc. I will not pass out any papers to students and I will not accept any papers from students.
  - 7) **Limited in-class interaction:** We will do our absolute best to maintain social distancing in the classroom. Please stay 6 feet away from my desk. I will be happy to answer general questions during class time, but I recommend that you address personal questions virtually.
  - 8) **No in-person office hours.** My office is not large enough to accommodate the CDC's recommendations for social distancing; therefore, all office hours will be held virtually.
  - 9) **Travel:** *If you have travelled internationally*, you are required to self-quarantine for 14 days upon your return. *If you have travelled locally or out of state*, you are required to self-quarantine for 14 days only if the local destination or state you traveled to is under a CDC COVID-19 travel advisory. <https://www.shsu.edu/katsafe/restart2020/faq#b73e7b75-e764-44b3-a404-66f4d498f0f6>
  - 10) **Illness:** Students who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, have been diagnosed with COVID-19, or have been in close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, PLEASE DO NOT COME TO IN-PERSON SESSIONS. <https://www.shsu.edu/katsafe/covid-19-protocols>  
*If you have tested positive for COVID-19*, please self-report via the "Restart 2020" SHSU web page. Go to <https://www.shsu.edu/katsafe/restart2020/> and click on the link on the right titled "Report Your Positive Case" (alternatively, you may contact Erica Bumpurs directly at [stdemb17@shsu.edu](mailto:stdemb17@shsu.edu)).
- Students who are symptomatic or who have had known exposure to COVID-19 may be tested at the Student Health Center.