

BIOL 4403 – Herpetology

Fall – 2020

Instructor: Dr. Dan H. Foley III
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Office hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00am – 10:00am via telephone
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.

Student Learning Objectives: 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.

Marketable Skills: Students who successfully complete the BS in Biology program will gain the following marketable skills:

- Students will be able to organize, analyze, and interpret data. For the BS program, this will be handled by various upper level courses including the reading of scientific papers, which require the students to read data in papers, process and understand the results to see if they make sense, and the determine if their conclusions match those in the paper.
- Students will be proficient at using presentation software. This will be disseminated in the BS program by many of the upper level courses, which currently require semester project presentations.
- Students will acquire experience in managing time and meeting deadlines. Students will be provided with deadlines for completing these tasks, and work on meeting these requirements and deadlines. For the BS in Biology, course will have assignments and exams at scheduled intervals. If these deadlines for these assignments are not met, student's scores and grades will be penalized.

- Students will gain the ability to speak effectively and write concisely about scientific topics. In the BS program, semester project presentations and capstone research projects will be assessed including oral or poster presentations. This will culminate in presentation which can be secondarily used for any professional meetings presented at. Presentations in the form of poster (for written) and oral (for verbal communication) will help to establish these practices.
- Students will acquire experience and guidance in the development of professional email correspondence. In the BS program, students will be instructed in their classes how to compose e-mail to their professors, including their name, complete sentences, respectful questions for clarification, and the proper way to address their faculty. This skill will be practiced through the degree in all classes through the correspondence between students and faculty over the 4 years they are in the program.

Tentative Lecture Schedule

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

Date	Topic	Readings
August 26	Introduction; Why Study Herps? Systematics & Origin of Herps	Chapter 1 Chapter 2
September 2	Systematics & Diversity of Amphibians	Chapter 3
September 9	Systematics & Diversity of Reptiles	Chapter 4
September 16	Biogeography of Herps	Chapter 5
September 23	Exam 1 (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5)	
September 30	Temperature & water relations	Chapter 6
October 7	Amphibian Reproduction & Life Histories	Chapter 8
October 14	Reptile Reproduction & Life histories	Chapter 9
October 21	Feeding	Chapter 11
October 28	Exam 2 (Chapters 6, 8, 9 & 11)	
November 4	Spatial Ecology	Chapter 12
November 11	Communication	Chapter 13
November 18	Mating Systems & Sexual Selection	Chapter 14
<i>November 25</i>	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday – NO CLASSES –</i>	
December 2	Foraging, & Interactions w/Parasites & Predators	Chapter 15
December 9	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 an 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

Date	Topic
August 26	No Lab
September 2	Movie " <i>The Cold Blooded Truth</i> "
September 9	Movie " <i>Land Invaders</i> " -Salamanders-
September 16	-Frogs 1-
September 23	-Frogs 2-
September 30	Movie " <i>Armored Giants</i> " -Turtles-
October 7	-Tuatara; Crocodilians-
October 14	Exam 1
October 23	Movie " <i>Dragons of the Day – Lizards</i> " -Lizards 1-
October 28	-Lizards 2-
November 4	Movie " <i>Sophisticated Serpents – Snakes</i> " -Snakes 1-
November 11	-Snakes 2-
November 18	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.

SRSU Disability Services. 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 each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Rebecca Greathouse Wren, LPC-S, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203 (please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can during working hours), or email rebecca.wren@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

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.

SRSU Distance Education Statement. 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.

Technical Support. SRSU 24/7 Blackboard Technical Support: Toll Free: 888.837.6055.
Email: blackboardsupport@sulross.edu

SRSU Library Services. The Sul Ross Library offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu. Off-campus access requires your LoboID and password. Check out materials using your photo ID. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or phone (432-837-8123).