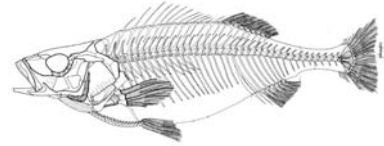




Bio 384L Spring 2004



Time/Location:

Thursday from 1:00 pm – 3:50 pm, Loyola 226

Instructor:

Dr. Robert Smith
Assistant Professor of Biology
Loyola 114
Phone: 941-6581
Email: smithr9@scranton.edu

Office Hours:

Thursday 4:00 – 5:00 pm, Friday 3:00 – 4:00 pm. Additional appointment times are available upon request. I am here to help you do well in this course, come and see me if you have questions or concerns!

Course description:

This course will combine the study of preserved specimens in the laboratory with field trips to teach students identification, taxonomic relationships and natural history of representative vertebrate species. Our focus will be primarily on those vertebrates found in northeastern Pennsylvania. Field trips are planned to observe vertebrates in the wild, in captivity (Nay Aug Park, Philadelphia Zoo) and as museum specimens (Everhart Museum, possibly Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences). Students will also conduct field research projects to better understand the behavioral ecology and ecophysiology of selected vertebrates.

Recommended Materials:

Peterson, R.T. 2002. A Field Guide to the Birds of Eastern and Central North America (Peterson Field Guide Series), 5th edition. Houghton Mifflin Co. ISBN: 0395740460.

Page L.M. et al. 1998. A Field Guide to Freshwater Fishes : North America North of Mexico (Peterson Field Guide Series), 2nd edition. Houghton Mifflin Co. ISBN: 0395910919.

Conant et al. 1998. A Field Guide to Reptiles & Amphibians of Eastern & Central North America (Peterson Field Guide Series), Revised edition. Houghton Mifflin Co. ISBN: 0395904528.

Field notebook

Attendance:

Attendance on field trips will count toward part of your final grade. Field trips are an important component of this course, and are necessary to observe living vertebrates in their habitats. Be prepared to go into the field on days of scheduled field trips. To minimize exposure to poison ivy, biting insects, and the sun, your field gear should consist of shoes and pants that completely cover the feet and legs, a long-sleeved shirt, and a hat. Depending on the weather, you might also wish to bring a jacket or raincoat. Sunscreen and insect repellent are also suggested items. Be prepared to go to the field on days field trips are scheduled. In other words, be ready for any type of weather, as field trips will only be canceled or postponed if weather is truly severe.

Evaluation Methods:

Student outcome will be assessed via two practical examinations, three lab reports, 2 assignments demonstrating mastery of data entry and graph creation, completion of field notebooks, and attendance/participation.

Grading:

Course grades will be determined by performance on the following assignments:

Practical exams (2)	100 pts. each
Lab reports (2)	50 pts. each
Data entry/graphing assignments (2)	15 pts. each
Fieldnotes (7)	5 pts. each
Attendance/participation	<u>35 pts.</u>
TOTAL	400 pts.

<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Grade earned</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Grade earned</u>
93 – 100	A	73 – 77	C
90 – 92	A-	70 – 72	C-
87 – 89	B+	67 – 69	D
83 – 86	B	60 – 66	D-
80 – 82	B-	< 60	F
77 – 79	C+		

I have no tolerance for cheating. Students are expected to know and follow the University of Scranton policies concerning academic honesty.

Tentative Lab Schedule

Date	Topic/Activity
29 January	Introduction
5 February	Taxonomy, Anatomy and Identification: fish, amphibians
12 February	Taxonomy, Anatomy and Identification: fish, amphibians
19 February	Taxonomy, Anatomy and Identification: fish, amphibians Practice Field Notes Due
26 February	*** Practical Exam # 1 ***
4 March	Taxonomy, Anatomy and Identification: fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds
11 March	Taxonomy, Anatomy and Identification: fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals
18 March	Spring Break
25 March	Taxonomy, Anatomy and Identification: fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals
1 April	*** Cumulative Practical Exam # 2 ***
8 April	Holiday
15 April	Squirrel lab; scientific writing, data entry and analysis
22 April	Fieldtrip #1: Nay Aug park, vertebrate watching Fieldnotes for squirrel lab due
24 April	Fieldtrip #2: All day (Saturday) trip to Philadelphia Zoo
29 April	Human Lab Graphs Due Summarizing Squirrel Data Field Notes for Fieldtrip #1 and #2 Due
6 May	Field trip #3: Vertebrate field sampling techniques – bird netting/vertebrate watching Squirrel Paper Due Human Lab Field Notes Due
13 May	Field trip #4: Vertebrate field sampling techniques – seine fish Graphs Due Summarizing Human Data Field Notes for Fieldtrip #3 Due.
20 May	Bird netting/watching lab (Optional) Human Paper Due Last Day of Finals Week Field Notes for Fieldtrip #4 due Last Day of Finals Week