

BIOL 451 - Ornithology**Lecture: TR 10:40 – 11:30 AM, BIOS 245****Lab: 11:45 AM - 2:15 PM, BIOS 169**

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Office hours: **W 9:00-11:00 AM**

Course web page – Blackboard/Webct

<http://www.calstatela.edu/academic/aa/ess/elps/elpsblackboard.php>**Summer 2010 Lecture Schedule**

	Date	Lecture Topic	Reading (Gill, F. <i>Ornithology</i> 3rd Ed. 2007 and Articles)
June	22	Course Introduction/The Diversity of Birds	Ch. 1 & Article
	24	Bird History (I)	Ch. 2 & Article
	29	Bird History (II)	
July	01	Systematics (I)	Ch. 3 & Article
	06	Systematics (II)	
	08	Feathers (I)	Ch. 4 & Article
	13	Exam #1	
	15	Feathers (II)	
	20	Flight	Ch. 5 & Article
	22	Physiology	Ch. 6 & Article
	27	Senses, Brains, and Intelligence	Ch. 7 & Article
	29	Vocalizations	Ch. 8 & Article
Aug	03	Exam #2	
	05	Annual Cycles, Migration, & Navigation	Ch. 9, 10, 11 & Article
	10	Reproduction (I)	Ch. 12, 13, 14 & Article
	12	Reproduction (II)	Ch. 15, 16, 17 & Article
	17	Populations	Ch. 18 & Article
	19	Species	Ch. 19 & Article
	24	Communities	Ch. 20 & Article
	26	Conservation	Ch. 21 & Article

FINAL EXAM (100 pts.) THURSDAY, Sept. 02, 2010, 8:00 - 10:30 AM, BIOS 245.

Course Description: Prerequisite: Grade of C or higher in BIOL 100C. Taxonomy, distribution, physiology, life history, ecology, and behavior of birds. Lecture 2 hours, laboratory and field work 6 hours. This course is designed to introduce students to the field of Ornithology. Ornithology is an upper-level course devoted to developing a broad understanding of avian biology. The goals of the lectures are to provide a foundation in major topics in avian life history, behavior, physiology, and conservation in their ecological and evolutionary contexts. Students are expected to actively engage in the learning process via independent research projects, additional activities, class online discussions, and individual observations and field trips to your local sites. Throughout the course, emphasis will be on understanding concepts rather than memorization of facts. Unlike most of the courses in our department, this course will look at biology from the viewpoint of a particular class of organism - birds. Ornithology is integrative in nature and as such, we will be touching upon almost all aspects of avian biology. Upon completion of this course students should be able to:

- Explain the basic classification and phylogeny of birds and understand their evolution
- Understand the basic life processes, characteristics and behaviors unique to birds
- Identify common species found within the Western United States

Required Textbook: *Ornithology*, 3rd edition, F.B. Gill, Freeman: New York (2007).

Drop Policy: Please see the schedule of classes for information. No exceptions will be made to the established University deadlines and policies.

Academic Honesty Policy: Students are expected to read and abide by the University's Academic Honesty Policy, which can be found at <http://www.calstatela.edu/academic/senate/handbook/ch5a.htm>. Students who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, and may receive a failing grade in the course for a single violation

Exams: Lecture exams will require that you supply a Scantron form (#882-E). There will be three exams covering current lecture material. **THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS DURING THE REGULAR TEN WEEK QUARTER.** However, if exam #1 or 2 is missed with a valid (for example, illness) and verifiable (for example, a signed note from a physician) excuse, you can make-up the missed exam with a cumulative final exam given during the second half of the regularly scheduled final exam session. This cumulative final exam will be taken only by students who have missed exams #1 or 2 with a verified excuse. **YOU MUST TAKE EITHER EXAMS #1-3 OR TWO EXAMS AND THE CUMULATIVE FINAL EXAM IN ORDER TO RECEIVE A GRADE IN THE COURSE.**

All personal items such as book bags, backpacks, briefcases and purses brought to exams must fit completely under your seats. If you need to leave the room for any reason during the exam, all exam materials including your lab manual must be left at your desk.

Policy Regarding Correction of Errors in the Grading of Exams: You have one week from the time that the lecture exams are returned to report errors in the grading of the scantron forms or discuss appropriateness of alternative answers.

Assessment Procedures

Your final class grade will be based on your total score out of 300 possible points. Half of your grade comes from the lab portion of the course. Grades will not be assigned until after the final exam, when all scores are available. You may estimate your grade at any time by calculating a percentage based on all possible points.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Minimum Percent</u>	<u>Total points (out of 600 possible)</u>
A	92	549-600
A-	90	537-548
B+	88	495-536
B	82	483-494
B-	80	477-482
C+	78	465-476
C	72	429-464
C-	70	417-428
D+	68	405-416
D	62	369-374
D-	60	357-368
F	<60	<356

Grading: Final grades will be based on the following scale -

300 pts. 3 X 100 pts lecture exams
 300 pts. laboratory grade (see laboratory syllabus below for breakdown)

**BIOL 451 - Ornithology Laboratory & Field Experience
 BIOS Room 169**

General Information

The laboratory component of this course will be field oriented. However, some basic ornithological material is best covered indoors. Such material includes anatomy, morphology, and taxonomy. We will have four labs dedicated to these topics early in the semester.

Approximately half will focus on identifying birds by sight and song, and studying their natural history. We may also design and conduct a research project together, most likely on mockingbirds.

Anytime you are in the field, you should carry a field notebook to record information we give you and observations you make.

The laboratory component of this course will count for 50% of your final grade. The 50% will be allocated as follows:

Lab Exams	100 pts
Field Notebook	50 pts
L.A. Zoo Trip Project	50 pts
Scientific Paper Critique	50 pts
Attendance/Participation	25 pts
Peer Evaluations	25 pts

Total: 300 pts or 50%

For each field lab it is important to:

- **Dress appropriately.** Use common sense on this. If it's going to be hot and sunny, bring protection from the sun (e.g., a hat). If it is cool, dress warmly in layers of clothing. Because we will be walking through undergrowth, good shoes are essential; do not wear sandals.

- **Be on time.** Because our time in the field is limited, we cannot wait for late-comers. I will keep track of attendance.

- **Bring binoculars, a bird book, and a field notebook.**

Summer 2010 Laboratory/Field Experience Schedule

Week	Laboratory/Field Experience Title
1	Course Introduction/Avian Topography (I) / CSULA onsite Field Experiences
2	Avian Topography (II) / Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
3	Feathers and Feather Structure / Lab Exam #1
4	Classification of the Aves / Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area
5	Avian Skeletal Anatomy (I) / Los Angeles Zoo

- 6 Avian Skeletal Anatomy (II) / **Audubon Center at Debs Park**
Lab Exam #2
- 7 Field Techniques / **Arroyo Seco – Pasadena**
Scientific Paper Critique Due!
- 8 Internal Anatomy (I) / **Eaton Canyon Natural Area and Nature Center**
Lab Exam #3
- 9 Internal Anatomy (II) / **Field Notebook Due!**
- 10 Course Evaluation / **Malibu Creek State Park**
Lab Exam #4
L.A. Zoo Trip Project Due!
PEER EVALUATIONS DUE

Required Lab Manual & Supplies:

- *Ornithology Lab Manual*, Narguizian, 2010 (available on-line).
- *Western Birds*, R.T. Peterson, Houghton & Mifflin, (1990).
- *Rite in the Rain – All Weather* Field Notebook (available in the bookstore).
- **Binoculars** – 7 X 35, 8 X 40, or 10 X 40. (Details will be provided in class).

It will be the responsibility of the student to download and print certain laboratory materials posted to the course website at <http://www.calstatela.edu/academic/aa/ess/elps/elpsblackboard.php> under Biology 451 on the *Course List*.

Peer Evaluations: The other group members will evaluate your work in your laboratory group. Forms with peer evaluation criteria will be supplied early in the quarter so that all group members are aware of these criteria. Each group member will evaluate all other team members. The mean of the scores submitted by your peers will be used in determination of your grade.

Final Paper and Drafts: All drafts and the final paper must be typed or produced with a word processing program. Individual instructors *may* accept drafts and papers submitted as attachments to email messages.