**a353 Comparative Vertebrate Biology: Spring 2014**

**Course Description:** Evolution, classification, collection, identification, distribution and biology of vertebrates with emphasis on the fauna of eastern North America.

**Central Learning Objectives:** Learn basic biology of vertebrates and how to identify major groups from around the world with a concentration on the Tennessee fauna.

**Degree Level Learning Objectives:** Laboratory and Field skills as well as Scientific Writing

**Professor:**
C. Darrin Hulsey
WF: 2:30-3:20 pm
Office: Hesler 527
Phone: 865-974-2189
email: chulsey@utk.edu
Office Hours: F: 1:30-2:30

**TA**:
Maxwell Rupp
Lab W: 3:35-6:35pm
Office: 528 Hesler
Phone: 865-974-1948
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Office Hours: M: 4:00-5:00

**Readings for lecture will be handed out the Wednesday before Friday class:**

**Field Guides for Lab:**
National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America: Revised and Updated (Paperback)
Field Guide to Reptiles & Amphibians of Eastern & Central North America (Peterson Field Guide Series)
Peterson Field Guide to Mammals of North America: Fourth Edition
A Field Guide to Freshwater Fishes: North America North of Mexico (Peterson Field Guides): Burr and Page

Generally, during the first half of class we will be having some labs to familiarize ourselves with the vertebrates of Tennessee. But, the lab schedule is going to be purposefully flexible in order to take advantage of nice weather. If the weather looks like it is going to be nice on Wednesday afternoon, we will send an email on Monday night to alert everyone that we will likely be going in the field on Wednesday.

For field trips, it will probably be ideal to have binoculars, snorkel and mask, an extra pair of old shoes that can get wet, waders on occasion, and a towel.

**Class Schedule:**

| Date | Lecture Topic | Assignment Due Dates |
|---|---|---|
| 8th Jan | Introduction | |
| 10th Jan | Systematics | |
| 15th Jan | | |
| 17th Jan | What is a fish? | |
| 22nd Jan | | |
| 24th Jan | Chondrichthys | |
| 29th Jan | | Email Darrin with Adaptation Topic |
| 31st Jan | Swimming | |
| 5th Feb | | |
| 7th Feb | Feeding | Turn in Five Citations |
| 12th Feb | | |
| 14th Feb | Respiration | Turn in Abstract |
| 19th Feb | | |
| 21st Feb | Salamanders | Turn in Figures |
| 26th Feb | | |
| 28th Feb | Lizards/Snakes | Turn in First Version of Paper |
| 5th Mar | | |
| 7th Mar | Salamanders | Get Paper to Review |
| 12th Mar | | |
| 14th Mar | Evolution of Sex | |
| 19th Mar | Spring Break | Spring Break |
| 21st Mar | Spring Break | Spring Break |
| 26th Mar | Dinosaurs | Turn in Reviews |
| 28th Mar | | |
| 2nd Apr | Crocodilians/Birds | |
| 4th Apr | | |
| 9th Apr | Mammals | Turn in Final Version of Paper |
| 9th Apr | | |
| 11th Apr | Bats | Turn in Adaptation Powerpoints |
| 16th Apr | | Adaptation Presentations |
| 18th Apr | No Lecture | Spring Recess |
| 23rd Apr | | Adaptation Presentations |
| 25th Apr | **Exam** | |

**Total Course Grade (50% Lecture / 50% Lab):**
Lecture
Exam = 20%
Paper = (Citations = 5%, Abstract = 5%, Paper Figures = 10%, Paper Draft = 10%, Review = 10%, Final 20%)
Presentation = 20%

Lab
Lab exercises = 25%
Lab Notebook 1 = 25%
Lab Notebook 2 = 25%
Participation = 25%

****Anything handed in after the time it is due will automatically have 20 points deducted from the grade. Each school day after that will result in a 20 points deduction
****All paper assignments must be handed in as a hard copy. No documents submitted via email will be accepted.

*No laptops in class
*All tests should be taken in pen. No regrades will be accepted if in pencil
*Last Day to Drop with a "W" February 14th, 2014
*All students are expected to uphold the University's Honor Statement in all academic work and should read the Academic Standards of Conduct with respect to plagiarism.
*Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. Please contact the Office of Disability Services at 865-974-6087 in Hoskins Library to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.