

EEB Natural History Teaching Collection Curation
EEB 493, Section 13 (CRN 23569)
Spring 2017

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Objectives: The purpose of this course is to acquire a general background of natural history museum work including specimen preparation, ethics, protocols, and database construction.

Readings: A selection of readings will be provided on Blackboard. We may add readings during the semester. Reading are expected to be completed at your leisure; however, completing the assigned read will be beneficial to your understanding of the importance and process of curating natural history collections.

Written Assignment: Throughout the semester you will reflect on the course through writing. You may keep either a blog (private or public) or a notebook (including illustrations). Writing natural history will enhance your observational skills while allowing you to think creatively.

Projects: The most important portion of the course will be curating the collections to the best of our combine abilities. We will move from one taxon to another according to our interests and resources. Other graduate students, professor, and/or staff will join us depending on the advising needed for particular portions of the project.

Optional Assignment: The Encyclopedia of Life is a global collaboration among scientists and the general public to make authoritative information and literature about all 1.9 million named species freely accessible online. Students can contribute to the Encyclopedia of Life in the following ways:

- Summarize species information in an overview suitable for the general public (“Brief Summary”; 300-400 words +/-)
- Write a more comprehensive species account (“Comprehensive Description”; 500-700 words +/-)
- Write about an individual topic such as general ecology