

ORNITHOLOGY
BIOL 458.3 – Term 1

Course Title: Ornithology
Course Code: BIOL 458
Course Credits: 3
Class location: rm 124, Biology
Class time: 10:30-11:30, M,W,F

Lab Location: Rm 123/124
Lab Time: 1:30-5:30, Tues

Instructor: Dr. K. Wiebe
Room 121, Biology, 966-4406 karen.wiebe@usask.ca
Office Hours: drop in, or call for an appointment.

Demonstrator: Mr. Alex Chang, Rm 119, Biology

Course Description

An overview of the evolution, morphology, and behaviour of birds of the world. Prerequisites: BIOL 121 and 224 and BIOL 228. BIOL 302 (formerly 401) is recommended.

Learning Outcomes

By the completion of this course, students will be expected to:

- 1) Appreciate the diversity of the class Aves and know how evolution has shaped the morphology of the different families
- 2) be able to identify common Saskatchewan birds in the field and know how to take accurate field notes
- 3) know the distinguishing features of the worldwide orders of birds
- 4) know how to effectively search the avian literature to review a current topic

Required Resources

1) A bird field (identification) guide of your choice: make sure it covers western North America. Among the most popular are *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North America*, *National Geographic Field Guide to Birds of North America*, *Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America*, *Stokes Field Guide to Birds: Western Region*.

2) Binoculars (buy or borrow) a pair

3) a small field notebook to record bird sightings

Grading Scheme

Mid-term exam	15%, on 14 Oct
Final exam	35%
Lab exam	20%, on 15 Nov
Term paper	text 15%, due on 6 Dec (by end of lab)
Oral presentation	7% (includes 2% for participation in discussion)
Field book	8%, due 6 Dec (by end of lab)

Late Assignments

A late penalty of **10% per day** will apply to assignments.

Criteria that must be met to pass

Students are required to complete all exams and assignments in order to receive a final grade.

LAB SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Content
1	Sept 13	- Walking tour on campus: bird ID
2	Sept 20	- morphology & evolution (bring lab coat if desired)
3	Sept 27	- study skins Struthioniformes, Tinamiformes, Galliformes, Sphenisciformes
4	Oct 4	- study skins Charadriiformes, Pelecaniformes, Suliformes Ciconiiformes, Gruiformes
5	Oct 11	- study skins Anseriformes, Podicipediformes, Gaviiformes, Procellariiformes
6	Oct 18	- study skins Falconiformes, Accipitriformes Strigiformes, Caprimulgiformes Psittaciformes, Columbiformes,
7	Oct 25	- study skins Cuculiformes, Apodiformes, Coraciformes, Piciformes, Passeriformes
8	Nov 1	Lab Review
9	Nov 8	NO LAB- READING BREAK
10	Nov 15	LAB EXAM
11	Nov 22	- student presentations
12	Nov 29	- student presentations
13	Dec 6	-student presentations, field book & term paper due

Attendance Expectations

Attendance at labs is expected, but it will not be monitored except during the days of student presentations when you will be expected to participate in discussion. Missed labs can't be rescheduled so connect with a classmate to obtain notes you may have missed.

Midterm and Final Examination Scheduling

Midterm and final examinations must be written on the date scheduled.

Final examinations may be scheduled at any time during the examination period; students should therefore avoid making prior travel, employment, or other commitments for this period. If a student is unable to write an exam through no fault of his or her own for medical or other valid reasons, documentation must be provided and an opportunity to write the

missed exam may be given. Students are encouraged to review all examination policies and procedures: <http://www.usask.ca/calendar/exams&grades/examregs/>

Evaluation Components

Field Book. You are to keep a written record of encounters with birds that you find interesting. The subjects should be wild birds (no pets or birds in zoos). The intention is for you to gain experience in observing and identifying birds, and in reporting your findings accurately. To get a passing grade (4 out of 8 %), you must ID at least 20 species. Higher marks will be partly based on additional species but mainly on the accuracy of your descriptions and records.

Directions on how to keep records.

- 1) Write in a small "field" notebook - preferably a small hardcover. Write legibly.
- 2) Number each observation.
- 3) For each observation, include the date, time of day, general weather conditions (approximate wind speed, cloud cover, temperature, lighting, general day type), specific location, and habitat type.
- 4) First present a species identity. This may be the only thing recorded for that particular encounter. When you encounter a species for the first time, identify it and list distinguishing features (that you actually see!) and/or draw a sketch. For example, note its size, shape, bill shape and colours. Does it have tail spots? Wing bars? Eye rings? Rump patches? Refer to field guides for helpful hints on describing and identifying birds. If there are similar-looking species, tell us how you were certain of your identification--it should not be confused with something else. Subsequent encounters with the same species need only to refer to it by name.
- 5) Record all observations that are of interest to you (multiple obs. of a species are OK) to include, they may have to do with a behaviour, an unexpected sighting of species for this time of year in Saskatoon, an unusual colour form, etc. What was the bird doing? Was it alone? Did you notice any patterns in its behaviour?
- 6) Literature references are NOT needed. This is a field book and as such should look like one. The notes you make should be those you actually recorded in the field and not re-copied out just before you hand it in. e.g., do not copy or trace pictures from the field guide when you are sitting at home!

NOTE: This is a field book; therefore, use it in the field! Do not copy notes (e.g., for the sake of neatness) into another book to hand in. Do it right the first time.

Term Paper and Oral Presentation

Length: 8-9 pages double-spaced and typed, not including reference list. Pages past the page limit WILL NOT be read so be organized and write concisely. Use standard margins (2.5 cm) and 11 pt Arial font or 12 pt Times font.

The general subject for the paper will be explained the first day of class and the student should notify the T.A. of the chosen topic (first come, first served).

Important note: Primary sources (i.e., journal articles, not textbooks) must be your major

source of information. In general, web sites do not contain information that is suitable for most essays because it is often shallow, lacks context, and is not peer reviewed. You must cite a **minimum of 5** peer-reviewed journal articles; usually more are needed for a good review of the topic.

Your paper must be well organized (subheadings may help), and contain a Literature Cited section listing only those papers to which you have actually referred.

In addition to the written paper, an oral presentation on the subject of the essay is required. Each student is to prepare a **10-12 min** powerpoint presentation. There will be a 5 min period after each talk for questions and discussion. The presentations will be given during the last two or three lab periods and attendance by all students is expected.

Integrity Defined

The University of Saskatchewan is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Student Conduct & Appeals section of the University Secretary Website and avoid any behavior that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students should read and be familiar with the Regulations on Academic Student Misconduct (http://www.usask.ca/university_secretary/honesty/StudentAcademicMisconduct.pdf) as well as the Standard of Student Conduct in Non-Academic Matters and Procedures for Resolution of Complaints and Appeals (http://www.usask.ca/university_secretary/honesty/StudentNon-AcademicMisconduct2012.pdf)

For more information on what academic integrity means for students see the Student Conduct & Appeals section of the University Secretary Website at:
http://www.usask.ca/university_secretary/pdf/dishonesty_info_sheet.pdf

Plagiarism

The University considers plagiarism to be academic dishonesty, as per the Student Academic Dishonesty Rules of the University of Saskatchewan

Plagiarism: the presentation of the work or idea of another in such a way as to give others the impression that it is the work or idea of the presenter.

There is an onus on every student to become informed as to what does or does not constitute plagiarism. Ignorance of applicable standards of ethical writing is not an acceptable excuse. The critical consideration is the impression created in the mind of the others, not the subjective intent of the student. This determination involves an objective evaluation of the manuscript. No intent to deceive is required to establish plagiarism. Adequate attribution is required. What is essential is that another person have no doubt which words or research results are the student's and which are drawn from other sources. Full explicit acknowledgement of the source of the material is required.

Examples of plagiarism are:

- i. The use of material received or purchased from another person or prepared by any person other than the individual claiming to be the author. [It is not plagiarism to use work developed in the context of a group exercise (and described as such in the text) if the mode and extent of the use does not deviate from that which is specifically authorized].

- ii. The verbatim use of oral or written material without adequate attribution.
- iii. The paraphrasing of oral or written material of other persons without adequate attribution.

Deferred Examinations

A student missing an examination must contact the instructor, in person or by phone, within 3 working days of the scheduled exam, to explain the student's absence at the exam, and to initiate discussion concerning a possible deferred exam. Otherwise, a grade of zero will be assigned for the missed exam. If you know in advance that you are going to miss an exam, it is always best to contact your instructor **prior** to the exam.

Examinations with Disability Services for Students (DSS)

Students who have disabilities (learning, medical, physical, or mental health) are strongly encouraged to register with Disability Services for Students (DSS) if they have not already done so. Students who suspect they may have disabilities should contact DSS for advice and referrals. In order to access DSS programs and supports, students must follow DSS policy and procedures. For more information, check <http://www.students.usask.ca/disability/>, or contact DSS at 966-7273 or dss@usask.ca.

Students registered with DSS may request alternative arrangements for mid-term and final examinations.

Students must arrange such accommodations through DSS by the stated deadlines.

Instructors shall provide the examinations for students who are being accommodated by the deadlines established by DSS.