BIOL. 4442 HERPETOLOGY COURSE SYLLABUS: SUMMER II 2012
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MAIN OBJECTIVE
A working knowledge and appreciation of the anatomy, physiology, behavior, distribution, and systematics of reptiles and amphibians.

MAJOR AREAS OF STUDY AND COMPETENCY
1. Learn characteristics and classification of Amphibians and Reptiles.
2. Understand adaptations to diet, digestion, thermoregulation and water balance.
3. Be able to list locomotory adaptations and relate this to herptile zoogeography.
4. Be aware of major references and use specialized techniques for capture and study.

LECTURES
Lectures provide major guidelines for study, reading, and co-ordinating theory with practical experience in the laboratories. Text and outside readings are assigned to broaden perspective, provide examples when lecture time is insufficient, and to encourage a working familiarity with the basic herpetological literature. The texts are:


In addition, other books will be recommended in lecture, and discussion topics will be assigned.

LABORATORIES
A field notebook will be required and a small field pack, tennis shoes, hat, insect repellent and sun screen will be helpful. Various field guides that are available will be discussed in class. Some field studies may be conducted on weekends. A field and/or laboratory project will also be required.

CLASS POLICIES
1. Failure to meet submission deadlines or examinations without provision will result in an “F” for the work in question. Work submitted late or a missed examination requires a written explanation from your physician.
2. Any student involved in providing false or misleading information, plagiarism, classroom misdemeanor, or academic dishonesty will be assigned an “F” for the work in question.
3. According to university policy, an “F” will be assigned if a student withdraws from the course without completing the proper forms for dropping a course.
COURSE GRADE

The final mark for the course will be computed as an average of the following grades:

1. Lecture Exams: Three one hour exams each worth 100 marks will emphasize lecture material, but may also include relevant laboratory and field exercises, and discussion. Mark: 300
2. Laboratory Exams: One three hour laboratory exam worth 100 marks will emphasize laboratory material, but may also include conceptual material from lectures. Marks: 100
3. Dissection projects graded for content and presentation. Marks: 100
4. Research project or Presentation Marks: 100
5. A collection will be required to be submitted at the end of term. Marks: 100

TOTAL MARKS POSSIBLE: 700

REQUIRED STATEMENTS

Disability and Veterans’ Services: Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is committed to providing persons with disabilities an equal opportunity to access campus facilities, resources and programs. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. Support and accommodations are also available for returning veterans who experience cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus. Our Office of Disability Services arranges such support and academic accommodations. To make a request, or for more information, call (361) 825-5816 or visit Driftwood 101. It is important to contact the Office of Disability Services in a timely fashion as it will take time for them to review requests and prepare accommodations and accommodation letters.

Grade Appeals: As stated in the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi University Rules and Procedures (Section B [Academic Program], Part 13 [Students]: 13.02.99.C2 [Student Grade Appeals] and 13.02.99C2.01 [Student Grade Appeal Procedures]), a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is on the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, consult the University Rules and Procedures specified above (accessible through the University Rules and Procedures website at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.
This schedule is meant to give a general indication of the topics covered and their approximate sequence. Changes in the schedule may occur depending on circumstances such as weather.

**July**

9  Introduction: references, nomenclature, geologic time, history
10 Origin and evolution of the Amphibia
11 Extant amphibians
12 The structure of amphibians
   13 **LABS**: Field techniques, Presentation and Dissection Assignments
16 Origin and evolution of the Reptilia
17 Adaptive lines in reptiles: dinosaurs, marine reptiles, birds, and mammals
18 The surviving primitives; lizards and snakes
19 The structure of reptiles
20 **LABS**: Keying; Organizing a teaching/research collection

**Aug**

01 Special topics
02 Special topics; Collections due
   03 **LABS**: Presentations of Dissections
06 Special topics
07 **LABORATORY EXAM** (Dissection Write-ups Due)
08 **LECTURE EXAM III**
09 **FINAL MEETING**

HAVE AN ENJOYABLE AND REWARDING SEMESTER!