

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Course No.: ZOOOL 4476
 Course Title: Fish, Amphibians, Reptiles
 Credit Hrs: 4 credit hours, upper division
 Term: Spring, 2015 (CRN 18057)
 Course Meetings & Location: Lecture: TR 5:30-6:50 PM, LART 209
 Laboratory: TR 7:00-8:20 PM BIOL B-206

Prerequisite Courses: BIOL 1306-1108 or ZOOOL 2406. Students should have completed all coursework up to the **senior level of experience** in their major.

Instructor: Dr. Carl S. Lieb
 Office Location: [old] Biology Building B-204
 Contact Information: 747-6987 (**preferred**), email: cliieb@utep.edu
 N.B.: The telephone is the most reliable means for time sensitive communication. If you do not receive a reply to an email within a few days, send it again (... and again).

Office Hours: 10:30-11:30 AM MW, 3:30-4:30PM R, and by appointment

Textbook: No textbook is required. However, students need to have access to an appropriate general biology or zoology textbook, such as they used when taking BIOL 1306 and/or ZOOOL 2406. Accessory materials, including field guides and published keys, may also be acquired as needed by the individual learner.

Course Objectives/
 Learning Outcomes: Students should emerge from the class with a basic understanding of the natural history and diversity of three divergent groups of vertebrates: fishes, amphibians, and reptiles. Students will also acquire the ability to recognize representative taxonomic groups and a variety of local species, as well as become familiar with the tools utilized to identify species that they do not know.

Course Activities/
 Assignments: ZOOOL 4476 is organized around approximately three hours of lecture two days a week coupled with approximately three hours of laboratory per week. The laboratory room (B-206) will also be available at other times upon request, as long as the lab room is not in use by others.

A brief quiz will be given promptly 5:30 PM on all Thursday lecture sessions. Students must be on time to class (i.e., **cutoff arrival will be 5:32 PM**) in order to take this quiz.

The overall lecture plan, subject to modification as the semester deteriorates, is to spend five weeks on fishes, four weeks on amphibians, and five weeks on reptiles. An entire semester or more could easily be spent on each of these groups, but the lecture material will primarily focus upon such topics as biodiversity, evolutionary trends, ecology, and interactions with human beings for each group separately. *Graduate students enrolled in this class have additional expectations of them that do not apply to the undergraduates. See the section on assessment of course objectives, below.*

Attendance: The lack of an appropriate textbook has consequences. **Attendance at all lecture sessions is absolutely required.** Students are responsible for all materials presented, discussed, or assigned during this lecture time. Blackboard postings are not intended to substitute for in-class note-taking and assiduous study of those notes. Moreover, as the laboratory practical exams take considerable time to set up and take down, they are perforce not ordinarily subject to make-ups.

Attendance will be randomly checked through the semester, usually towards the end of the lecture session. Woe to the student who appears in class on Thursday only to take the quiz at the beginning of the session and then sneak out immediately afterwards!

Laboratory time is more flexible, but **students must not make work or other outside time commitments during either the lecture periods or their assigned laboratory periods. Lecture and lab sessions on any given evening may be reversed, or doubled up, at the discretion of the instructor and on very short notice.**

Laboratory: The overall laboratory objectives are that each student will:

- learn to recognize a major subset of the regional species.
- learn to recognize a small subset of taxa representing worldwide diversity
- learn how to use standard identification tools
- examine structures and view examples described in lectures

The laboratory room where the materials to be mastered are accessible in Biology Building Room B-206. Mastery of these materials is largely self-paced, and thus there is flexibility in how and when each student approaches learning what is required of them. The TR evening laboratory sessions will include the services of Dr. Lieb or a teaching assistant.

Other time for study of lab materials in B-206 may also present itself, but the room is subject to use for other classes and meetings; students may not use B-206 when it is reserved for meetings or other classes, and the room **MUST BE LOCKED** when not occupied. Students should not procrastinate in mastering lab material; such material may appear on Thursday quizzes after the first two weeks of lab sessions on each group. Also, B-206 will be closed on the Practical days before 3PM.

Safety goggles (provided by the student) must be worn in the laboratory when specimens are removed or returned to specimen jars by not only the person performing the operation, but also every other person within 12 feet. Specimen jars must be kept closed when specimens are not being removed or replaced. Protective gloves are recommended when handling preserved specimens; disposable gloves will be provided in the lab. Specimens and other provided materials may not be removed from the lab room. **APPROPRIATE CLOTHING, INCLUDING CLOSED-TOED SHOES, MUST BE WORN IN B-206. NO FOOD OR DRINK ARE ALLOWED IN B-206. NO MINOR CHILDREN ARE PERMITTED IN B-206, EITHER, EXCEPT BY PRIOR ARRANGEMENT WITH THE EHS OFFICE.**

Please refrain from bringing live animals into B-206 without permission of Dr. Lieb; venomous or toxic vertebrates are especially unwelcome.

Assessment of
Course Objectives:

Evaluation will be through two lecture examinations (a midterm and a final examination), three practical laboratory examinations, and the weekly Thursday quizzes. *Graduate students (only) are additionally required to each deliver one classroom lecture and to assist Dr. Lieb in one third of the laboratory sessions.*

Grading: Grades will be calculated from the following:

25% Midterm exam (**Tuesday, 13 October**)

25% from quizzes given Thursdays (some quiz grades will be dropped, hence the no-make up policy)

25% laboratory examinations (3 @ 9-7-9%)

25% Final examination on Thursday, **10 December**
@ 7:00-9:45 PM

There is no extra credit. Please do not ask for it.

Missed Examination Policy: Missing the midterm, the final, or a laboratory examination contributes zero percent toward the student's final course grade, and thus represents a catastrophe for grade expectations. These problems will be handled on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of Dr. Lieb, who *insists* that the following rule be observed: If a student must miss an examination (not a quiz) because of illness, death in the family, University-sponsored event, or for any other reason other than their own demise, he or she must contact Dr. Lieb either in person or **by telephone** (747-6987 – leave voicemail if not answered), either **BEFORE** the test date or **WITHIN 48 HOURS** following the start of the examination and (for all exams except the Final) **BEFORE** the next class period. **NEVER RELY ON E-MAIL FOR CONTACTING DR. LIEB UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES.** The student is expected to personally

discuss the situation with Dr. Lieb within that 48-hour period, and arrange for a satisfactory solution.

Missed quizzes, because of absence or tardiness, and regardless of how worthy the reason, are not subject to being taken or made up.

- Drop Policy:** The student drop date is **30 October** 2015. The results of the midterm exam, one lab practical exams, and a handful of quizzes will be known by that time. Students are thus expected to act in wise and timely fashion in their own interests. The instructor will not drop any student who has taken any quizzes or any examination; withdrawal action must be taken by the student's own initiative by this 6 April deadline. Students who find themselves in academic trouble anytime during the semester should promptly consult with Dr. Lieb so that their options can be explored (don't wait until the end of the semester!).
- Academic Integrity Policy:** Despite his outward cynicism, Dr. Lieb more-or-less believes in the general goodness and honesty of his fellow human beings. Nevertheless, those who try to shatter his illusions and betray the norms of academic integrity will be turned in to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. You may review UTEP policy in these matters at <http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=23785>.
- Civility Policy:** Civility between the members of the class, and between the instructor and the students, is expected. Please use polite and temperate language at all times.
- Silence your cell phone before entering the classroom; please do not take calls during class time. Avoid all noisy endeavors not related to the matter at hand (talking, eating, snapping chewing gum, and, of course, snoring).
- Your instructor will do his best to be there by the start of class/lab. Please emulate him with timely appearances as well.
- Disability Policy:** If a student has or suspects he/she has a disability and needs an accommodation, he/she should contact the Center for Accommodations and Support at 747-5148, or at cass@utep.edu, or go to Room 106 Union East Building. The student is responsible for presenting to the instructor any CASS accommodation letters and instructions.
- Military Call-up:** The instructor understands that students engaged in military service may be called up and deployed at any time. Please consult with Dr. Lieb as soon as your orders come through, so that arrangements for completion or suspension of academic work can be put into place.

ZOOL 4476 COURSE CALENDAR FALL 2015

25-27 August: Course introduction, review of basic chordate structure and function; begin fish biology; **Attendance at both lab sessions this week is required!** Lab material begins with fishes

1-29 Sept: Continue Fishes

29 Sep: Laboratory Practical No. 1 (Fishes) @ 7:15 PM in Biology B-206

1 Oct: Begin Amphibians. **Attendance at the lab session is required today.**

6-8 October: Continue Amphibians

13 October: Mid-term exam over all lecture materials (fish and amphibians) presented to date
finish amphibians

15-22 October or thereabouts: Continue Amphibians

22 October – Laboratory Practical No. 2 (Amphibians) @ 7:15 PM in Biology B-206

27 October – Begin Reptiles, lecture and lab; **Attendance at the lab session is required.**

29 October - 3 December – Continue Reptiles

3 December – Laboratory Practical No. 3 (Reptiles) @ 7:15 PM in Biology B-206

10 December – Final examination period (7:00 -9:45 PM) over lecture materials presented after 13 October