VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY COURSE SYLLABUS - (Spring 2015)
AND COURSE RULES

I. Course Number, Title, and Prerequisites

ZOOL 2406 – Vertebrates Zoology (CRN 21715 ). Prerequisites: BIOL 1305(1107); BIOL 1306 (1108); MATH 1508. 4 Credits (3/3)

II. Instructor Information

Dr. Jerry D. Johnson
Office/Lab: B 205/B220
Phone: 747-6984 (office); 747-6993 (lab); Fax 747- 5808
E-mail: jjohnson@utep.edu
Office Hours: M 9-11:30 am, W 2-3 pm; R 1–3 pm; or by appointment.

TA: Dominic DeSantis, dldesantis@miners.utep.edu, B406.

III. Objectives - Upon completion of this course, the student will have: A. Reviewed modern biosystematics in respect to organic evolution and taxonomy and how both relate to animals. B. Characterized the biology, phylogeny, natural history, and biogeography of the following taxa: Chordata; Urochordata; Cephalochordata; and Vertebrata (Myxini, Cephalaspidomorphi, Chondrichthyes, Actinopterygii, Sarcopterygii; Amphibia; and Reptiliaforms [Chelonia, Reptilia, Eusuchia, Aves, and Mammalia]). The course is predicated on the fact that modern zoology is based on theories associated with biological evolution, which is overwhelmingly accepted by mainstream science (is scientifically refutable). In this course, all aspects of creationism (i.e., all creation science, including intelligent design) are pseudosciences at best and will not be covered in any detail.

IV. Course Evaluation - The course grade will be determined from three lecture exams, a written paper, and from three of the four lab exams. Lecture average will count 75% (average of three exams [150 pts. total] and paper grade [20 pts.]). Lab average will count 25% of total course grade (points per exam may vary). A missed lecture exam must be made-up within two days of the original, unless prior arrangements are made. No make-up exams will be allowed in lab, but a missed exam or the lowest exam grade will be dropped from the final lab average. I will not accept extra credit work unless it is offered to the entire class. If you must drop the course for any reason, it is your responsibility to do so. Lecture examinations will consist of the following type questions: multiple choice, true/false, matching, fill-in-blanks, and short answers. Lab exams will be objective questions and/or practical identification. I will give out study guides about a week before each lecture exam and during lab to help students organize study time. But remember, anything that I write on the chalkboard can be asked on an exam. Grading will be based on percentages: (90 -100 [A]; 80-89 [B]; 70-79 [C]; 60-69 [D]; below 60 [F]). The final lecture exam may have a few questions from other units, so save all tests and make sure you correct questions missed on those previous exams. Deviation in
timelines for exams or other items not pointed out in syllabus will be discussed in class beforehand and indicated in study guides.

V. Text and Materials


VI. Tentative Lecture Calendar (Spring 2014. TR 9–10:20 am. Classroom: CCSC 1.0204)

Jan. 20 - Feb. 17: Ch. 6 – Organic evolution overview; Ch. 10 – Classification.

**Feb. 19:** 1st Exam (50 pts.)

Feb. 24 – Mar. 19: Ch. 23 – Chordates; Ch. 24 – Fishes
                   Ch. 25 – Amphibians

Mar. 9 - 13: Spring Break

**Mar. 24:** 2nd Exam (50 pts.)

Mar. 26 – May 7: Ch. 26-Reptiles, Crocodilians; Ch. 27 – Birds;
                 Ch. 28 - Mammals

April. 2: Library work on required paper

**May 12:** Final Exam (10 am) (50 pts)

May 15: Paper due (20 pts.)

VII. Classroom Rules and Attendance Policy - I expect you to behave in an adult manner and give me full attention during class, but I do encourage questions and comments on classroom subjects. I prefer that you use pencil on exams. If you miss a class, get notes from a classmate. **Turn off electronic devices, except computers only for note-taking.** Do not cheat – cheating of any kind will be documented and referred to the proper authorities. Regular attendance is mandatory and will increase the opportunity to successfully master this course and to increase the grade level attained. Unexcused absences will be noted and will be considered when final averages are calculated (e.g., if your grade average is borderline, number of absences will help determine the instructor’s decision on the final grade). You can be dropped from the class if you miss two consecutive class periods without notifying instructor. E-mail is preferred method of correspondence. Disputed grades or other issues regarding the course should be discussed
with the instructor first; if not satisfied the student should next contact the Biology Department Chair.

VIII. Instructional Methodologies - Course work will consist of lecture, audio and/or visual presentations, note taking, discussions, lab work, and reading and writing assignments. I recommend that students keep a daily journal (small spiral-type notebook) of course objectives, important time-lines, and other information that will help you organize the information for this course. I also highly recommend that you form a class peer study group to help master the course information. The syllabus will be sent to student via e-mail before the first class session.

IX. Laboratory Calendar (spring 2014, T 3-4:50 pm, Biol 206)

Jan. 21: Orientation and safety lecture
Jan. 28: Exercise 5 – Animal classification; systematics handouts
Feb. 4: Systematics (cont.)
Feb. 11: 1st Exam
Feb. 18: Exercise 17 – Non-vertebrate chordates; Exercise 18 – Cartilaginous fish
         Exercise 18 – Bony fish
Feb. 25: Exercise 19 – Amphibians (handout)
Mar. 4: 2nd Exam
Mar. 11: Spring Break
Mar. 18 Exercise 20 – Reptiles, Crocodilians, Turtles (handout)
Mar. 25: Exercise 21 - Birds
Apr. 1: Review Amphibians, Crocodylians, Reptiles, Turtles, Birds
Apr. 8: Review Amphibians, Crocodylians, Reptiles, Turtles, Birds
Apr. 15: 3rd Exam
Apr. 22: Mammal Survey (handout)
Apr. 29: Exercise 22 – Mammal Anatomy
May 6: Final Lab Exam
X. Disability: If you have or suspect a disability and need accommodations, contact the Disabled Student Services Office (747-5148; dss@utep.edu; Union Building East, room 106, or visit DSSO website at www.utep.edu/dsso/).

XI. Course Drop Policy. The UTEP spring 2015 drop deadline is April 6th. The College of Science will remain aligned with the University and will not approve drop requests after that date.

XII. Course Incomplete (I) Policy. All incomplete grades must be accompanied by an Incomplete Contract that must be signed by instructor, student, department chair, and Dean of Science. It is recommended that I grades be completed within one month of end of semester, although the maximum time allowed is one year under extreme situations. An I grade is limited to extraordinary end of semester circumstances, such as a missed exam or unfinished project. If a significant amount of work is missed throughout the semester, an I grade is not appropriate or warranted.