

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE
Department of Biological Sciences

Course #: BIOL 5305 CRN: 27049
Course Title: Herpetology
Credit Hrs: 3
Term: Spring 2015
Course Meetings & Location: Lecture: Classroom Building C203, Monday & Wednesday 1:30-2:50 PM,
Lab: Biology 206, Thursday 3:00-5:50 PM
Prerequisite Courses: None
Instructor: Eli Greenbaum, Ph.D.
Office Location: Biology 301 (between Classroom & Biosciences Buildings)
Contact Info: Phone # 747-5553; Fax # 747-5808
E-mail address: egreenbaum2@utep.edu
Emergency Contact: (Cell) 785-393-3583 *emergencies only please*
NOTE: **please do NOT email me on Blackboard**
Office Hrs: Tuesdays 1:00-3:00 PM & Wednesdays 10 AM-noon; email for other appointment times if necessary
Textbook(s), Materials: **Required** Moore, R. 2014. In Search of Lost Frogs: The Quest to Find the World's Rarest Amphibians. ISBN: 978-1770854642.
Recommend: Vitt, L. J., and J. P. Caldwell. 2013. Herpetology: An Introductory Biology of Amphibians and Reptiles. 4th Edition. ISBN: 978-0123869197
Degenhardt, W. G., C. W. Painter, A. H. Price, and R. Conant. 2005. Amphibians and Reptiles of New Mexico. ISBN: 978-0826338112
All books may be obtained from Amazon.com.
Course Objectives (Learning Outcomes): At the end of this course, students will have a global purview of the families of amphibians and reptiles, including systematics, evolutionary history, biogeography, and to a lesser extent, behavior and ecology. The laboratory component's objectives will be to identify important morphological features of all available herpetological families.
Course Activities/Assignments: In addition to exams and lab practicals, each student will be responsible for presenting one 30-minute lecture on the herpetological **family** of their choice. The presentation must be in the form of a Powerpoint presentation, and should include a summary of the evolutionary history, systematics, behavior and ecology of the family. In addition to assigned reading from the recommended texts, the class will read studies from the primary literature and discuss them in a group format during lab. Specific laboratory activities will be explained in detail on laboratory handouts.
Assessment of Course Objectives: Students will be assessed on the course objectives from four written lecture exams, three lab practical exams, the Powerpoint presentation, and class participation and attendance. Dates of exams are provided in advance (see course schedule below), and the schedule for Powerpoint presentations will be determined during the first week of class.

- Grading Policy:** Each of 4 lecture exams will include **mostly** short-answer written responses and some multiple choice questions. Each of 3 laboratory practical exams will test students' ability to identify unlabeled specimens (including whole specimens, skins, skeletons, and shells), and will have a format of short-answer responses. Exams will: (1) include two or three bonus questions such that it will be possible to receive a grade of 103%; (2) not be cumulative; and (3) not be curved. Each of the four lecture exams will be worth 10% of the final grade; three laboratory practicals will be worth 13% of the final grade. Fifteen percent of the final grade will be from the Powerpoint presentation, and the final 6% will be class participation and attendance. Final grades for the course will be as follows: 90–103: A; 80–89: B; 70–79: C; 60–69: D; < 60: F. Failure to follow laboratory rules (explained in laboratory handouts) can result in a grade of F in the course.
- Make-up Policy:** Makeup exams will be offered to students who miss a scheduled exam because of illness, death in the family or university-sponsored activity, but written documentation must be provided. Makeup exams may not conform to the scheduled exam format.
- Extra credit:** Note that with the exception of bonus questions on exams, no extra credit will be given for any assignment at any time during the entire duration of this course.
- Attendance Policy:** **Attendance for lectures and laboratory is mandatory.** Valid excuses for missing class include illness, vehicle breakdown, death in the family, or university-sponsored activity, but all valid excuses must be accompanied by written documentation for makeup exams. Students who miss exams without written documentation will receive a grade of zero.
- Academic Integrity Policy:** The UTEP policy on academic honesty can be found at: <http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=23785>. All students will be expected to adhere to this policy.
- Civility Statement:** I expect all students to be actively engaged in taking notes and class activities during the brief time we meet each week. This means that students should not: (1) converse with classmates during lectures; (2) use cell phones during class (including texting); (3) use laptop computers for any purpose other than note taking; or (4) otherwise disrupt your fellow students from learning and active participation.
- Disability Statement:** If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass. Requested accommodations must be made 5 working days before an examination.
- Military Statement:** If you are a military student with the potential of being called to military service and/or training during the course of the semester, please contact me within the first two weeks of class to arrange in advance for makeup exams, etc.

Dropping the Course: Students are cautioned to consider dropping the course if they are performing poorly **BEFORE** the drop deadline (see below for date). You must drop this class yourself – I will not automatically drop you if you just stop attending. However, I reserve the right to drop you if you register for the course and never show up to class. Also remember that courses may only be repeated a total of 3 times, and a “W” counts as one. The College of Science will remain aligned with the University and not approve any drop requests after that date. Note that if a student has an advisor submit a drop request after the drop deadline without permission from the dean, I will be asked to assign a grade by the registrar, and that grade will be F.

Incomplete Grades: All grades of Incomplete must be accompanied by an Incomplete Contract that has been signed by the instructor of record, student, departmental chair, and the dean. Although UTEP will allow a maximum of one year to complete this contract, the College of Science requests it be limited to one month based upon completion data. A grade of Incomplete is only used in extraordinary circumstances confined to a limited event such as a missed exam, project, or lab. If the student has missed a significant amount of work (e.g. multiple assignments or tasks), a grade of Incomplete is not appropriate or warranted.

Course Schedule:	Lecture Schedule	Topic/Exam	Textbook Reading
	W Jan 21	Objectives & Introduction	Chapters 1 & 13
	TR Jan 22	LAB: caecilians & salamanders	
	M Jan 26	Amphibia	Chapters 2, 4 & 5 (amphibians)
	W Jan 28	Amphibian Evolution	Chapter 3 (pp. 83–95)
	TR Jan 29	LAB: Frogs I	
	M Feb 2	Caecilians	Chapter 15
	W Feb 4	Salamanders	Chapter 16
	TR Feb 5	LAB: Frogs II	
	M Feb 9	Basal Frogs I	Chapter 17 (pp. 471–78)
	W Feb 11	Basal frogs II	Chapter 17 (pp. 478–99)
	TR Feb 12	LAB: Review of amphibians	
	M Feb 16	LECTURE EXAM 1	
	W Feb 18	Neobatrachia I	
	TR Feb 19	LAB PRACTICAL EXAM 1	
	M Feb 23	Neobatrachia II	Chapter 17 (pp. 499–518)
	W Feb 25	Neobatrachia III & Reptilia	Chapter 2, 4 & 5 (reptiles) & 3 (pp. 95–112)
	TR Feb 26	LAB: Crocodylians & turtles	
	M Mar 2	Tuatara & Crocodylians	Chapters 19 & 20
	W Mar 4	Turtles	Chapter 18
	TR Mar 5	LAB: Gekkota & Scinciformata	
	***** SPRING BREAK MARCH 9–13 2015 *****		
	M Mar 16	Amphisbaenians	Chapter 21 (pp. 555–58, 566–70)
	W Mar 18	LECTURE EXAM 2	
	TR Mar 19	LAB: Iguania Lizard Group	
	M Mar 23	Scinciformata Lizard Group	Chapter 21 (pp. 561–66)
	W Mar 25	Iguanidae	Chapter 21 (pp. 584–94)
	TR Mar 26	LAB: Anguimorpha	
	M Mar 30	Chameleons & Agamids	Chapter 21 (pp. 580–84)
	W Apr 1	Anguimorpha	Chapter 21 (pp. 574–79)
	TR Apr 2	LAB: Laterata Lizards	
	M Apr 6	Dibamids & Gekkotans	Chapter 21 (pp. 557–63)
	***** Course Drop Deadline *****		
	W Apr 8	Remaining Laterata	Chapter 21 (pp. 570–72)
	TR Apr 9	LAB PRACTICAL EXAM 2	
	M Apr 13	Snake evolution & Scolecophidia	Chapter 22 (pp. 597–603)
	W Apr 15	LECTURE EXAM 3	
	TR Apr 16	LAB: basal snakes	
	M Apr 20	Alethinophidia & Basal Caenophidia	Chapter 22 (pp. 603–11)
	W Apr 22	Colubroidea	Chapter 22 (pp. 611–26)
	TR Apr 23	LAB: Colubroidea	
	M Apr 27	Elapoidea I	
	W Apr 29	Elapoidea II & Viperidae	
	TR Apr 30	LAB: Elapoidea & Viperidae	
	M May 4	Congo Herpetology (Powerpoint will not be posted)	Chapter 14
	W May 6	Discussion of Robin Moore's <i>Lost Frogs</i> book	
	TR May 7	LAB PRACTICAL EXAM 3	
	FINAL EXAM:	Wednesday May 13, 2015 4:00 pm – 6:45 pm	Classroom Bldg.