
ORNITHOLOGY (BIOL 3950/5950):
Spring 2021 Syllabus

Lect. MWF 12:00-12:50 (BSC 1024)
Lab/Field

LABORATORY & FIELD

On most Fridays we will go into the field, either walking or by special bus. Please assemble in the lab at 7:25 a.m. to check out binoculars. Stay tuned in lecture to know what we're doing for that week's lab. *We will leave the building (or bus stop) promptly at 7:30. That means you need to do whatever it takes (multiple alarm clocks, wake-up service, buddy system...) to make sure that your mind and body are present in the lab a little bit before 7:30 am on each scheduled day. The bus will not wait for you; so if you're late, you're absent.* Wear appropriate field attire (long pants, boots or high-tops; rain gear if advisable; bug spray); bring field journal, field guide.

TENTATIVE LABORATORY TOPICS

Weeks 1,3 -- Bird Anatomy: external gross, skeletal, feathers, feet, bills, internal organs	QUIZ WEEK 3
Week 2,4 -- Local birds in winter (field)	QUIZ WEEK 5
Week 5,8 -- Bird Sounds I and II.	QUIZ WEEK 9
Week 11 -- Museum Preparation, or nests, or other	
Week 12 -- Friday Holiday (April 2), NO LAB	
	FINAL FIELD QUIZ April 30
Week 15 -- Special Projects Due (April 30; Topics TBA)	

(Note: most weeks we will be in the field; weeks 1, 3, and 5 we will be in lab, and others TBA).

*Bonus Points will be awarded: (1) for species identified in field and properly annotated in journal, beyond 75 species baseline [10 pts per 40 species]; (3) special Saturday fieldtrip attendance 4 pts. each.

GRADING :

Lecture Tests @ 100 pts	= 300
4 Lab/Field quizzes	= 100 (approx.)
Lab/Field Project	= 45
Semester Bird List	
(base points, up to 75 spp.)	= 15
*Bonus Points	= 25 max.

TOTAL= 460 (=100%, but 485 pts. possible with bonus)

A/B/C/D cutoffs will be 90/80/70/60%, *or lower*, at my discretion (**NOTE: not lower for 5950**).

Tentative dates and destinations for optional Saturday full-day trips:

Jan. 30

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students requiring classroom or testing accommodations because of documented disabilities should discuss their needs with the instructor at the beginning of the quarter. To register with the Access Office, go to 1115 Nevins or call 245-2498 (voice) or 219-1348 (tty), or visit <https://www.valdosta.edu/student/disability/>.

SPECIAL COVID-19 STATEMENT: Students will wear a fitted facial covering of nose and mouth at all times indoors and when unable to distance outdoors (NOTE: neck gators are not effective and therefore will not meet this requirement; masks with exhaust valves also are not effective, as they vent particles into the air). This is CDC guidance and also a requirement of the University System and VSU; beyond that, it is the right thing for all of us to do to be mutually respectful of each other's health and well-being. If you should develop symptoms or come in close contact with someone who has tested positive or has COVID symptoms, contact the Student Health Center (333-5886) and/or make an appointment with the Lowndes County Public Health Service COVID testing center by calling 844-955-1499, and do not come to class until you receive a negative test and your symptoms clear (or 10 days after symptoms start if you do not get a test). This is a face-to-face course, and therefore you are required to attend class physically. Any special accommodations will require documentation from Student Affairs. VSU's Coronavirus FAQ page is <https://www.valdosta.edu/health->

