Biology 386 General Vertebrate Zoology Lab

Syllabus – Spring 2017

**Teaching Assistant**

Sophia Thompson Office Hours: Castetter lower level meeting area

sophiat4@unm.edu Mondays, 2-4 (between labs), or by appointment.

**Course Documents**

Course material (lab exercises, assignments, and study guides) are available on http://www.stevenpoe.net/gvz-spring-2017.html . Students are required to bring all necessary materials to lab each week. These materials may be in printed form or in electronic form on mobile a device.

**Required Materials**

Weekly Lab Exercises (download them from http://www.stevenpoe.net/gvz-spring-2017.html and bring to class each week). Lab copies will Not be provided by me. These labs are adapted from the Vertebrate Zoology lab manual (M. O’ Connell and H. Bateman, 2005 with additions from Brittany Barker).

**Tentative Weekly Schedule**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Lab # | Lab Topic | Assignment | Quiz # |
| Jan 18 |  | **MLK, Jr. Day – No Lab** |  |  |
| Jan 23 | 1 | External Characteristics | 1 |  |
| Jan 30 | 2&3 | Skeleton & Locomotion | 1 due | 1 |
| Feb 6 | 4 | Respiration & Circulation |  | 2 |
| Feb 13 | 5 | Digestion & Feeding | 2 | 3 |
| Feb 20 | 6 | Reproduction & Sensory |  | 4 |
| Feb 27 | 7 | Fish Diversity  | 2 due | 5 |
| Mar 6 |  | **Lab Practical #1**  |  |  |
| Mar 12-19 |  | **Spring Break** |  |  |
| Mar 20 | 8 | Amphibian Diversity | 3 |  |
| Mar 27 |  | Aquarium/Zoo Tour? |  |  |
| Apr 3 | 9 | Reptile Diversity | 3 due | 6 |
| Apr 10 | 10 | Avian Diversity |  | 7 |
| Apr 17 | 11 | Mammal Diversity |  | 8 |
| Apr 24 |  | To be announced |  |  |
| May 1 |  | **Lab Practical #2** |  |  |
| May 8 |  | To be announced |  |  |

# *The above schedule is subject to change. You will be notified in advance of any changes.*

**Grades**

Your grade for General Vertebrate Zoology will be cumulative for the lecture (75%) and lab (25%). The lab portion of your grade is based on a total of 200 points.

**Assignment Points Percentage**

Participation 30 15%

Assignments (3 at 10 pts ea) 30 15%

Quizzes (8 at 5 pts each) 40 20%

Lab Practicals (2 at 50 pts ea) 100 50%

**TOTAL 200**

**Attendance**

# Attendance each week is important and necessary in order to learn the material. Two lab sections meet on Mondays (11:00am-2:00pm and 3:00pm-6:00pm). Lab attendance is required and you should attend the section in which you are enrolled. However, if you know in advance that you will miss your regular time, please try to attend the other section and notify me. In the event that you miss lab due to illness contact me and provide a doctor’s note for any missed labs. Due to extensive setup times, there will be NO make up labs after the lab day.

**Participation**

Actively interacting with your fellow classmates, asking and answering questions, etc. will help you to better learn the material.

Additionally, answering the lab manual questions correctly will be very helpful, as some of these questions will appear on quizzes and lab practicals. It is your responsibility to complete and check these questions. If you are unsure of your answers, consult with fellow classmates and/or talk to me during office hours or in lab if time permits.

**Homework Assignments**

You will be required to complete three homework assignments worth 10 pts each during the semester, they will be explained in lab when they are assigned. Assignments will be due at the beginning of lab, the week after they are assigned. Hard copies please. No emailed versions accepted. One point per day will be deducted from late work.

**Quizzes**

Eight short quizzes (5 pts each) will be given in the first 10 minutes of most labs. The quizzes are meant to be a brief overview of the previous week’s materials and to act as a study guide for the lab practicals. Each quiz will be based on material from the previous week’s lab; i.e., Quiz 1 will be held January 30th and will cover the External Characteristics lab. No make-up quizzes will be offered so you must be in lab on time to get credit for the quiz.

**Lab Practicals**

Two lab practicals worth 50 points each will be held during the semester (for a total of 100 points). Lab practicals will include questions regarding specific life history traits, anatomical features, physiology and specimen identifications covered during lab exercises. As with quizzes, I will ask you a selection of questions that come directly from your lab exercises and topics discussed in lab. Further details will be discussed the week prior to each lab practical.

Note: Lab practical preparation takes a lot of time and work. Consequently, if you miss a lab practical you will not be able to make it up.

**Policy on Academic Dishonesty**

Lab assignments may be completed with fellow students and collaboration is encouraged. However, you are expected to turn in your own unique work written in your own words. Electronic devices and/or other “aids” may not be used during lab quizzes or practicals. Any student caught using electronic devices or other “aids” during these quizzes or practicals will receive a 0 and will be asked to leave the lab.

**Policy on Missed Labs**

If you miss any labs, it is your responsibility to obtain any material from a classmate. If you cannot attend a lab, you must email the instructor and you will still be responsible for the missed material. As each lab requires a considerable amount of time for set up, there will be no make-up lab sessions permitted.

**Cell Phone Policy**

Full attention is expected during lab. If you have an emergency, please take it outside. No cell phones are permitted to be out during quizzes or practicals.

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

Qualified students with disabilities needing accommodations should speak with the lab instructor as soon as possible to ensure that their needs are met in a timely manner.