BIOLOGY 488L: HERPETOLOGY
MONDAY 1:00-4:00 PM

Lab TA: Chris Anderson
Office: Castetter 135
Office Hours: After lab or by appointment
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TEXTS FOR LAB:
Peterson Field Guide: Western Reptiles and Amphibians, by Stebbins
– *This is the standard guide for US herps, it will be very helpful in lab and in the field*

Amphibians and Reptiles of New Mexico, by Degenhardt et al.
– *Although a bit out of date, this is still an excellent resource for identification, distribution and natural history of NM herps. See me about borrowing a copy*

GOALS OF THIS LAB:
Generally, students will learn about reptile and amphibian diversity.

I have the following 3 goals for you:
1. Be able to identify (to family level) representatives of the 75 amphibian and 96 reptile families
2. Be able to identify (to species level) all or most of New Mexico's ~130 herp species
3. Gain understanding of aspects of natural history, distribution, diversity and field techniques applicable to herpetological fields of study as well as broader topics in biogeography and ecology.

GRADING:
Your lab grade represents 35% of your overall grade assessed based on two lab practicals worth 14% each and attendance/other assignments for the remaining 7%
– **Lab Practicals:** The first will focus on amphibians and the second on reptiles. I will cover how to prepare for these during lab. We can also plan some extra lab time to view specimens but you will need to ask.
– **Attendance:** Attend lab regularly, it's hard to learn material that you never see.
– **Other Assignments**: Field notes comprising observations of herps made during field trips as well as independent observation of local herps made on your own time (we'll talk more about this when it warms up)

Don't hesitate to ask questions during lab, come to office hours or email me with questions.

Enjoy yourselves!

TENTATIVE LAB SCHEDULE

DATE	LAB	SUBJECT	NOTES
JANUARY, 23	**1**	**Amphibian Diversity I**	*Global diversity and distribution of Gymnophiona and Caudata*
JANUARY, 30	**2**	**Amphibian Diversity II**	*Global diversity of Anura*
FEBRUARY, 6	**3**	**US Amphibians**	*ID, diversity, and distribution of US amphibian families*
FEBRUARY, 13	**4**	**NM Amphibians**	*ID, diversity, and distribution of NM amphibian species*
FEBRUARY, 20	**5**	**Zoo Tour**	*Behind the scenes tour of herps*
FEBRUARY, 27	**6**	**Practical 1**	*Global, US, and NM Amphibian ID, diversity, and distribution*
MARCH, 6	**7**	**Cuban Herps**	*Learn ID and natural history of herps of western Cuba*
MARCH, 13	**–**	**Spring Break**	*Cuba field trip* *6–8 days between March 10–20*
MARCH, 20	**8**	**Reptile Diversity I**	*Global diversity and distribution of Testudines and Crocodylia*
MARCH, 27	**9**	**Reptile Diversity II**	*Global diversity and distribution of Rhynchocephalia and Squamata*
APRIL, 3	**10**	**US Reptiles**	*ID, diversity and distribution of US reptile families*
APRIL, 10	**11**	**NM Reptiles**	*ID, diversity and distribution of NM reptile species*
APRIL, 17	**12**	**TBA**	*Local herping trip?*
APRIL, 24	**13**	**Practical 2**	*Global, US, and NM reptile ID, diversity, and distribution*
APRIL, 28 *(weekend)*	**–**	**NM Field Trip**	*Leave for hidalgo Co. NM early afternoon*
MAY, 1	**14**	**Specimen Prep**	*Preserve specimens/tissues from NM field trip*
MAY, 8	**–**	**Finals**	*No lab*