



BIOL 233 - Ornithology

Course CRN - 20015 (Lecture) and 20016 (Lab)

Semester Taught: Spring 2018
Credit Hours: 4 Credit Hours
Prerequisites: None (BIOL 101 recommended)
Course Time / Room: Lecture – MWF 2-2:50pm (S-204)
Lab – W 3-4:50pm (S-210)

Building and Room Number

Instructor: Tom Ford
Office: Science Hall Rm. 201E
Office Hrs.: MF 12:30 – 2pm; R 11am-12pm; R 1 – 2pm
Phone #: 304-384-5214 or x5214 (on campus)
Email: tford@concord.edu
Moodle: <http://moodle.concord.edu>

Textbooks

Required:

- Sibley, D.A. 2016. The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America (2nd Edition). ISBN – 0307957918 (*Or similar field guide*)

Optional:

- Gill, F. 2006. Ornithology (3rd Ed.). New York: W.H. Freeman Co. ISBN – 0716749831 (*On 2 hr. reserve in library*)

Course Objectives

- To understand the anatomy, physiology, behavior, and ecology of birds.
- To understand the role birds play in ecosystems and human society.
- To be able to identify the common birds found in southern West Virginia.
- To maintain a field notebook of bird sightings.
- To be familiar with common field techniques used to study avian biology.

Concord University Educational Goal(s)

Skills: An ability to analyze, synthesize, and integrate elements, information, and ideas. Also, an ability to appropriate observational, logical, analytical, computational, creative, and critical thinking skills within and across academic disciplines; and to apply these skills in problems solving.

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Knowledge: An awareness of the fundamental characteristics and properties of the physical universe. A recognition of the complex interactions between organisms, including human beings, and these environments.

National Standards: None

Grades

Your grade for this course will be based on the following assignments.

Lecture Exams: Two take-home lecture exams composed of approximately 4-6 essay questions. The exams will include material covered in lecture and any reading assignments.

Bird ID Exams: ID exams will be identification of bird species from pictures and playbacks of vocalizations.

Bird ID Quizzes: A weekly quiz on bird identification will be given in lecture.

Lab Quizzes: The lab quizzes will cover material presented during lab.

Field Notebooks: You will be expected to maintain a field notebook of bird sightings during class field trips and include notes on sightings outside of class (at least one 30 minute “trip” per week). See handout outlining proper format of field notebook. You will also be responsible for submitting your observations to your individual and class eBird accounts (ebird.org).

Topic Assignments: During the first half of the semester, I will ask you to bring to class an article concerning some topic in ornithology and present it to the class.

Term Paper – You will write a 5 – 7 page paper on an ornithological topic of your choice. You will submit a proposal, a rough draft, and final draft of your paper.

You will be asked to give a 10 minute oral presentation on your topic at the end of the semester.

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Breakdown of Course Grade

Lecture Exams (2) @ 100 pts. each	200 pts.
Bird ID Exams (2) @ 40 pts. each	80 pts.
Field Notebook (2) @ 30 pts. each	60 pts.
Bird ID Quizzes (12) @ 5 pts. each	60 pts.
Lab Quizzes (4) @ 10 pts. each	40 pts.
Topic Assignments (6) @ 5 pts. each	30 pts.
Term Paper Proposal – 10 pts. Annotated Bibliography – 10 pts. Rough Draft – 10 pts. Oral Presentation 20 pts. Final Draft – 100 pts.	150 pts.
Total	620 pts.

Grade Scale

% Total Possible Points	Letter Grade
90.0 – 100%	A
80.0 – 89.9%	B
70.0 – 79.9%	C
60.0 – 69.9%	D
< 60.0%	F

Grading Policy : I do not curve exam scores. The only circumstance in which I might adjust scores on an exam is if I feel that one or more questions were not presented in a clear manner.

For the final grade, I will total the points earned over the semester and assign a letter grade based on the scale presented above. If you are within 1% of a higher letter grade, I will use several factors in determining whether to “bump” you up, including class attendance and final exam and/or paper scores.

Academic Honesty and Late Penalties

Cheating (especially plagiarism) will not be tolerated. In most cases, the first offense will result in a 0% (F) for the assignment. An additional offense will result in a 0% (F) for the course and will be reported to the University for possible further action. Please consult the Academic Honesty Policy in the university catalog. Ignorance of the policies and definitions outlined in the catalog will not be accepted as a reason for violating them.

Late assignments will be assessed a penalty of up to 10% of the total possible points for each school day after the due date (starting immediately after the class period it is due). This penalty includes late paper submissions to turnitin.com.

Attendance and Make-up Policy

Please inform me as soon as possible if you anticipate missing lecture or lab. For field trips, please show up **at least** 10 minutes before the start of lab as we will leave campus promptly at the beginning of the lab period.

A documented excuse (from a doctor or university official) must be provided to make-up an exam. The make-up exam must be taken as soon as possible after the original scheduled date. Unexcused absences from lecture or lab may result in penalties on lab reports or assignments associated with those classes missed.

Students with Disabilities

Students needing special accommodations for disabilities of any kind should notify me in writing as soon as possible after the beginning of the semester. Notification should not include a diagnosis but should include specific requests for accommodation. Students needing accommodations are also encouraged to work through the SNAP Center or Student Special Services.

Withdrawal and Audit Policies

Faculty in the Division of Natural Sciences will not sign academic exceptions for withdrawal after the deadline for students earning a grade of D or F. Academic exceptions for withdrawal after the deadline will be considered for students earning grades of A, B, or C only under highly unusual and extenuating circumstances. It is also the policy of the Division that students may not change to audit status in a course after the 10-week withdrawal deadline under any circumstances.

University Policies

Accessibility/Accommodations:

Concord University is committed to responding to the needs of students with disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please inform your instructor at the beginning of the class semester if you have a disability and are requesting accommodations. It is your responsibility to self-disclose that you are requesting accommodations. The University and instructor will provide you with a reasonable accommodation. You should register with CU's Disability Services Office, located in the Athens campus Jerry and Jean Beasley Student Center, Bottom Floor, across from the Campus Post Office. The Disability Services Office phone is 304-384-6086 or you can email the Director, Nancy Ellison, at nellison@concord.edu for assistance.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is morally unacceptable as well as destructive to the learning and teaching atmosphere. Academic dishonesty includes the giving or receiving of improper help on examinations or assignments, falsifying documents, and plagiarism (the act of stealing and using, as one's own, the ideas or the expression of the ideas of another). Such dishonesty can lead to a variety of penalties — including but not limited to failure of assignment, failure of course, loss of

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institutional privileges, or dismissal from the University. (See University Catalog Academic Policies and Procedures.)

Concord University Honor Code

A Concord University Honor Code was approved by students, staff, faculty, administration, and the CU Board of Governors. The Code states:

"As a member of the Concord University Community I will act with honesty and integrity in accordance with our fundamental principles and I will respect myself and others while challenging them to do the same."

The Honor Code is intended to unite the Concord community behind a culture of honesty, integrity, and civility.

Class/Online Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance is part of a student's academic obligation at Concord. Irregular attendance may affect academic performance adversely and is detrimental to the atmosphere of a class. (See University Catalog Academic Policies and Procedures.)

Emergency Alert System

In an effort to increase safety and security on our campus, Concord University encourages everyone to register for instant text message alerts. Alerts will only be used for security and safety notices. All students, faculty, and staff are eligible to receive text message alerts on their cell phones or email alerts. Please contact the IT Help Desk for further assistance (304-384-5291).

Emergency Information

Emergency/courtesy telephones are located at the main entrance of each residence hall and at various other locations on campus. Emergency telephones can be identified by the flashing blue light and will provide the user with a direct link to Public Safety at the press of a button. To report an on-campus emergency, call 304-384-5357 or 911. The Office of Public Safety is located on the bottom floor of the Rahall Technology Center. For further emergency information go to: <http://www.concord.edu/administration/office-public-safety>.

Inclement Weather Policy

As a general policy, the University will remain in normal operations during adverse weather conditions. In the event of severe weather conditions, the following may occur:

University Closure

No students or employees are to report.

Classes Cancelled

Students do NOT report BUT employees are expected to report to work at their normal time.

Operating on an Inclement Weather Delay

Under this schedule, all 8 a.m. classes will start at 10 a.m. Students and faculty will follow the Inclement Weather Schedule. (See <http://www.concord.edu/emergency-alerts> for Athens/Beckley Inclement Weather Schedules.)

**Announcements invoking the late schedule or other options referenced above are aired on area radio and television stations and are sent as text and email messages to those enrolled for this service.*

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Student Conduct

In classrooms, online, laboratories, and during any activities that are part of course requirements, students are expected to observe reasonable rules of conduct.

Sexual Harassment & Assault

Federal law, Title IX, and Concord University policy prohibits discrimination, harassment, and violence based on sex and gender (Including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, and retaliation). If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can receive confidential counseling support through the Concord University Counseling Center (304-384-5290). Alleged Violations can be reported non-confidentially to the Concord University Title IX Coordinator at 304-384-6327 or titleix@concord.edu. Reports to Campus Security can be made at (304-384-5357). As an employee at Concord University, I am a mandatory reporter which means I must report any sexual misconduct I am made aware of. This includes verbal or written (such as in an assignment) disclosures of sexual harassment or sexual assault.

Technology Services

Contact the CU Help Desk at extension 5291 from campus or 304-384-5291 off campus. You may also e-mail cuhelpdesk@concord.edu.

Syllabus Disclaimer

"This syllabus is subject to change based on the needs of the class. Please check it regularly."

The mission of Concord University is to provide quality, liberal arts based education, to foster scholarly and creative activities and to serve the regional community (<http://www.concord.edu/academics/>).

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Tentative Lecture Schedule – Spring 2019**

Week	Topic(s)	Reading (Gill)	Assignments Due
1	Introduction to Course Conservation and Birds	Chp. 20 & 21	
2	Evolution of Birds Feathers and Flight	Chp. 1, 2, & 3 Chp. 4 & 5	Topic #1
3	Feathers and Flight (cont.)	Chp. 4 & 5	Topic #2
4	Foraging: Physiology and Behavior	Chp. 6 (pgs. 164 – 179)	Topic #3
5	Mating Systems in Birds	Chp. 12 & 13	Topic #4
6	Reproductive Physiology	Chp. 14	Topic #5
7	Reproductive Physiology (cont.)		
8	Nests and Parental Care Exam #1 – Due March 8th	Chp. 15 & 16	Topic #6
9	SPRING BREAK		
10	Parental Care (cont.)	Chp. 16	Term Paper Proposal Due (March 22 nd)
11	Behavior and Learning Communication: Physiology	Chp. 7	
12	Visual Communication Vocal Communication	Chp.12(p.344-358) Chp. 8	Annotated Bibliography Due (April 5 th)
13	Vocal Communication (cont.)	Chp. 8	
14	Migration	Chp. 9 & 10	
15	Population and Community Ecology of Birds	Chp. 18 & 20	Rough Draft Due (April 26 th)
16	Oral Presentations		
	Lecture Exam #2 – Due Wed. @ noon of Final Exam week.		Term Paper Due (May 8 th)

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Tentative Lab Schedule – Spring 2019

Date	Lab	What's Due
Jan. 16	Tools of the Trade: Binoculars and Spotting Scopes Campus Birding Tour	Binoculars available to be checked out. Mini-Lab Quiz - Optics
Jan. 23	FIELD TRIP	
Jan. 30	FIELD TRIP	
Feb. 6	External Anatomy; Skeletal System	Lab Quiz #1
Feb. 13	Feathers	Lab Quiz #2
Feb. 20	Internal Anatomy (Organ Systems)	Lab Quiz #3
Feb. 27	FIELD TRIP	
March 6	FIELD TRIP	Field Notebook Due (Friday)
March 13	<i>SPRING BREAK – No Lab</i>	
March 20	FIELD TRIP	
March 27	FIELD TRIP / Ethogram	
April 3	FIELD TRIP / Avian Acoustic Biology	
April 10	FIELD TRIP / Census Techniques	
April 17	FIELD TRIP	
April 24	FIELD TRIP <i>Three Rivers Avian Center</i>	
May 1	FIELD TRIP	Field Notebook Due (Friday) Return binoculars.

Field Trips

- We will leave campus promptly at 2 or 3 pm. Please be at least 5 minutes early to class to avoid being left behind. We usually meet in the small parking area behind University Point.
- Bring your binoculars and field notebook.
- Dress appropriately for the weather anticipated for each field trip. It will be cold early in the semester ... dress in layers so that you can adjust to the weather conditions.
- Bring water and a snack.