Instructor: Dr. Brent Burt
Department: Biology
Office: Science 222  Phone: 468-2482  E-mail: ddburt@sfasu.edu
Office hours: MW 8:00-9:15, 1:15-2:30

Class meeting time and place:
  Lab: T or R 8:00-10:50, S 218
  Lecture: TR 11:00-12:15, Miller 233

Texts: Ornithology, third edition  Frank Gill
       The Sibley Guide to Birds.  David A. Sibley

Additional Reading: Papers from primary literature

Course online resources: D2L

Course Description: 3 semester hours, 2 hours lecture, 3 hours lab per week. Classification, distribution, ecology, adaptations, and behavior of birds. Emphasis on local species. Laboratory identification of birds in the field and museum study of skins. Field trips required. Prerequisite: Four semesters of biology. Lab fee $10. Travel fee required.

Student Learning Outcomes (Course Competencies):
1. Learn and understand fundamentals of avian:
   a. anatomy and physiology (Lecture and Lab)
   b. flight (Lecture)
   c. evolutionary history and classification (Lecture and Lab)
   d. migration, orientation and navigation (Lecture)
   e. vocal communication (Lecture and Lab)
   f. mating, social, and reproductive biology (Lecture)
   g. population ecology and conservation biology (Lecture and Lab)
2. Develop bird identification skills (visual and auditory) (Lecture and Lab)
3. Develop critical thinking skills associated with the evaluation of papers in the primary literature. (Lecture)

Program Learning Outcomes:
-PLO 1. The student will demonstrate a good knowledge base in biological concepts (Knowledge). The first PLO is achieved with each SLO listed above.
-PLO 4. The student will be able to design, carry out, and analyze experiments to answer biological questions using the scientific method (Methods). The fourth PLO is achieved with SLO 3 listed above.
-PLO 6. The student will demonstrate preparation for future career and educational goals (Career Preparation). The sixth PLO is achieved with each SLO listed above.

Grading Policy:
Your final grade in this course is determined by grades from lecture exams, lab quizzes and exams, the literature review discussions and participation in the course evaluation.

Lecture exams  (4 @ 100 pts)  400 pts (100 each)
Paper discussions  (4 @ 20 pts)  80 pts
Lab practical exam  100 pts
Field ID quizzes  (4-6 @ 20 pts)  80-120 pts
Course evaluation  6 pts

Grade are determined by earning 90%, 80%, 70% and 60% of available points for the associated traditional letter grade.

Course Requirements:
Lecture exams will be a combination of multiple choice, matching, true/false, and short answer questions. Make-up lecture exams are given prior to regularly scheduled exams (given certain circumstances) or you can take the optional final (see below) at the end of the semester. Make-up and optional final exams will be in essay format. Anyone showing up late to take an
exam will not be permitted to take the exam if they arrive after any other student has turned in their exam and left the room. Latecomers to the optional final exam will not be allowed to take the exam if they show up after any other student has already turned in their exam.

All students will be given the option of taking an optional, comprehensive exam during dead week. This exam will be in essay format. For students choosing to take this optional exam, the score for this exam will replace the lowest grade from the regular exams.

We will be reading and discussing four papers from the primary (scientific) literature this semester. Prepare two typed and printed copies of two insightful comments or questions that convince me you read and critically evaluated the paper. One copy will be turned in before the discussion and the other is to help with participating in the discussion. Do not simply copy another student's notes or text from the paper as these are forms of plagiarism. You must be present and prepared at the paper discussions to be eligible to earn full points. I will not accept late copies of your notes/questions. If you are present the day of the discussion but do not have your notes you will get 10 points. If you miss the discussion you can turn in a 2-3 page summary of the paper for 15 points within a week of the discussion.

The lab practical is the biggest obstacle for most students. Memorize the taxonomic groups given in lab and be able to associate specimens and common names with the appropriate taxa. Also, know the basic topographical, feather and skeletal features of birds. The lab practical will be primarily a "pin test" concerning identification of avian anatomy and classification. A make-up lab practical will be granted only in rare circumstances.

Field ID quizzes will test your ability to identify birds in the field by sight and/or sound. There is no possibility for making up field ID quizzes.

It is departmental policy to require students to fill out online class evaluations at the semester's end using mySFA.

Attendance Policy:
Attendance is expected for each lecture and lab. Regular attendance will play a crucial role in decisions concerning borderline final grades.

NOTICE: Vans leave shortly after the start of class on days we have lab in the field. Don't be late! Also, dress appropriately for going to the field (including boots, insect repellent, sunscreen, hat, and/or rain gear if needed).

Acceptable Student Behavior
Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program. Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment will be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

Class etiquette:
Do not be late for class.
Do not leave before the class period is over.
Do not anticipate the end of class and start putting your things away.
Do not talk during class.
Turn off your phone.
Stay awake and pay attention.

Student Academic Dishonesty (4.1)
Abiding by university policy on academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members must promote the components of academic integrity in their instruction, and course syllabi are required to provide information about penalties for cheating and plagiarism as well as the appeal process.
Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

- using or attempting to use unauthorized materials on any class assignment or exam;
- falsifying or inventing of any information, including citations, on an assignment; and/or;
- helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism.

Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were one’s own.
Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- submitting an assignment as one's own work when it is at least partly the work of another person;
- submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source; and/or,
- incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper or presentation without giving the author credit.

Penalties for Academic Dishonesty
Penalties may include, but are not limited to reprimand, no credit for the assignment or exam, re-submission of the work, make-up exam, failure of the course, or expulsion from the university.

Procedure for Addressing Student Academic Dishonesty
A faculty member who has evidence and/or suspects that academic dishonesty has occurred will gather all pertinent information and initiate the following procedure:

- The faculty member will discuss all evidence of cheating or plagiarism directly with the student(s) involved.
- After consideration of the explanation provided by the student(s), the faculty member will determine whether academic dishonesty has occurred. The faculty member may consult with the academic unit head and/or dean in making a decision.
- After a determination of academic dishonesty, the faculty member will inform the academic unit head and submit a Report of Academic Dishonesty with supporting documentation to the office of the dean of the student’s major. This report will become part of the student's record and will remain on file with the dean's office for at least four years even if the student withdraws prior to receiving a grade.
- For a serious first offense or subsequent offenses, the dean of the student’s major will determine a course of action, which may include dismissal from the university. The dean may refer the case to the college council for review and recommendations before making this determination.

A student's record of academic dishonesty will not be available to faculty members. The purpose of the record is for the dean to track a pattern of academic dishonesty during a student's academic career at Stephen F. Austin State University.

Student Appeals
A student who wishes to appeal decisions related to academic dishonesty should follow procedures outlined in Academic Appeals by Students (6.3).

Students with Disabilities
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.
### Course Calendar:

**Timing of topics subject to change**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lab Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 16</td>
<td>Intro., Evol. History, Systematics</td>
<td>Jan 16, 18</td>
<td>Feathers/bones (8:00)</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>A&amp;P: Respiration, Circulation</td>
<td>Jan 23, 25</td>
<td>Pecan Park</td>
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<td>23</td>
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<td>Jan/Feb 30, 1</td>
<td>Classification I (8:00)</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>A&amp;P: Osmoregulation and Excretion</td>
<td>Feb 6, 8</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>A&amp;P: Reproduction</td>
<td>Feb 13, 15</td>
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<td>Feb 1</td>
<td>A&amp;P: Senses, Neuro.</td>
<td>Feb 20, 22</td>
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<td>Paper Discussion</td>
<td>Feb/Mar 27, 1</td>
<td>Review for Lab Exam (8:00)</td>
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<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>Mar 6, 8</td>
<td>LAB EXAM (8:00)</td>
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<td>Feathers and Flight</td>
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<td>Migration, Navigation</td>
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<td>Vocalizations</td>
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<td>Territorial and Social Behavior</td>
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<td>Mate Choice and Breeding Systems</td>
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<td>13-15</td>
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<td>Nests and Incubation</td>
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