FOR 463 – AMPHIBIAN EXPERIMENTAL ECOLOGY

GENERAL INFORMATION
Instructor: Dr. Christopher Schalk
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Office Hours: TTh 8:30-9:30 am or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will focus on the design and interpretation of ecological experiments in amphibian systems. The course will emphasize hypothesis testing, sampling methodology, and data analyses and data presentation. The utility of experiments to aid in amphibian conservation and management will be emphasized.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES
This course is designed to address the following Program Learning Outcomes (PLO’s), as given in the Bachelor of Science in Forestry (BSF) degree program:
1. Demonstrate understanding and competency of forest ecology and biology;
2. Demonstrate understanding and competency in the measurement of forest resources;
3. Demonstrate understanding and competency in managing forest resources;
4. Demonstrate understanding and competency of forest resource policy, economics, and administration.
5. Demonstrate understanding and competency in oral and written communication skills.

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STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon completion of this course, successful students will be able to:
1. Demonstrate an understanding amphibian ecology and experimental design (PLO’s 1, 2).
2. Demonstrate an understanding of current conservation and management concerns and strategies for amphibians (PLO’s 1, 2, 3, 4).
3. Demonstrate competency in written and oral communication skills (PLO 5).

GRADES
- Literature Discussion – 50%
- Data Collection, Curation, Analysis, and Presentation – 50%
Final Course Grade: 100%
GRADING
Final grades will be assigned based on the following: A ≥ 90.0%; 90.0% > B ≥ 80.0%; 80.0% > C ≥ 70.0%; 70.0% > D ≥ 60.0%; 60.0% > F. There will be no curve and no extra credit.

OTHER POLICIES
Lab Safety and Conduct Policy: Appropriate clothing, including pants and boots, is required for labs with an outdoor component. It is at the discretion of the instructor what appropriate dress for the field is. You may also require a jacket or rain gear in the winter and drinking water during warm weather, as appropriate. If we are scheduled to go to the field, then we will go, regardless of weather conditions. Come to lab appropriately dressed. Usage of tobacco products is not permitted in lecture or lab.

Academic Integrity (A-9.1): Academic integrity is a responsibility of all University faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by University policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism. Definition of Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) 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 your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54): Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

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/

Responsible Use of Technology: It is expected that all students will only use cell phones, PDAs, laptop computers, MP3 players and other technology outside of class time or when appropriate in class. Answering a cell phone, texting, listening to music or using a laptop computer for matters unrelated to the course may be grounds for dismissal from class or other penalties.
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 (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may 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.

University Policy 13.9 deals with firearms and the concealed carry policy. Students with concealed carry licenses that choose to carry on campus are required to follow all Texas laws and University policies and it is their responsibility to understand and comply accordingly. See: http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/13.9-Firearms-Explosives-and-Ammunition.pdf