Instructor: Dr. Brent Burt  
Department: Biology  
Office: Science 222  Phone: 468-2482  E-mail: dbburt@sfasu.edu  
Office hours: MW 8:00-10:00, 1:15-1:45, and by appointment  

Class meeting time and place:  
Lab: T or R 8:00-10:50, Miller 218  
Lecture: TR 11:00-12:15, Miller 225  

Texts: Handbook of Bird Biology, third edition, Lovette and Fitzpatrick  
The Sibley Guide to Birds, second edition, David A. Sibley  

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)  
Lab practical exam 50 pts  
Field ID quizzes (4-6 @ 20 pts) 80-120 pts  
Course evaluation 5 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. 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
deal 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.

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.

Don't count on a make-up field ID quiz.

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).

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 triods, 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.

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

Academic dishonesty will result in immediate failure in this class.

**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/.
Course Calendar:  
Timing of topics subject to change  

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lab Topic</th>
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<td>Introduction, Diversity I</td>
<td>Jan 21, 23</td>
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<td>Diversity II</td>
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<td>Bird Evolution</td>
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<td>Anatomy &amp; Physiology</td>
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<td>Anatomy &amp; Physiology</td>
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<td>May 6</td>
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