Course Information

Course Description
The catalog description of this course is: “A study of the amphibians and reptiles, their anatomy, evolutionary history, diversity, ecology, behavior, and zoogeography. Laboratory exercises will emphasize the identification and natural history of Texas amphibians and reptiles.” This course will also feature work with scientific literature and the opportunity to pursue individual projects. You are expected to understand and remember the facts presented and to demonstrate an ability to work with those facts. You will also be asked to synthesize and analyze data from a myriad of sources. This information will be presented during lecture, in the laboratory and through reading your textbook and other assigned material.

Prerequisite and Co-requisite Courses
General Zoology (BIOL 1413) is the only prerequisite for this course.

Prerequisite Skills
Accessing Internet websites, using ASU Library resources, and proficiency with Blackboard, Microsoft Word and PowerPoint are expectations of this course. You will also be expected to use a dissecting microscope. Please contact me if you have problems with any of these.

Student Learning Outcomes
Upon completion of this course, students will:
1. Understand the classification and taxonomy of reptiles and amphibians.
2. Understand variation in life history traits and their selective advantages.
3. Become familiar with the autecology and ecological role of selected reptiles and amphibians.
4. Be able to recognize the species of reptiles and amphibians of Texas.
5. Be familiar with herpetological literature.
Course Delivery
To maintain academic quality while accommodating social distancing needs this semester, this course will use a split delivery model that combines face-to-face teaching with remote instruction.

The goal is to provide face-to-face instruction to students who want to return to campus, while also allowing students who may need to learn remotely to participate via virtual class sessions.

When you are not in the physical class, you will attend live remote sessions at the same time as our scheduled course. You will also be expected to complete coursework via Blackboard.

Please refer to this Health and Safety web page for updated information about campus guidelines as they relate to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Required Texts and Materials


Technology Requirements
If you are not able to attend class, Access to exams and quizzes will be through Respondus Lockdown Browser and will be video recorded via Respondus Monitor. Respondus requires a desktop computer or laptop (not a Chromebook) and a webcam. For best results, use an ethernet cable to connect to your Internet source instead of relying on Wifi. Refer to the Blackboard course for Respondus installation instructions.

I will use Blackboard Collaborate to record classes.

Communication
I will respond to email and/or telephone messages within 24 hours during working hours Monday through Friday. Weekend messages may not be returned until Monday.

Written communication via email: All private communication will be done exclusively through your ASU email address. Check frequently for announcements and policy changes.

Virtual communication: Office hours and/or advising may be done with the assistance of the telephone or Collaborate.
Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Type</th>
<th>Possible Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>2 x 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes, in-class work</td>
<td>Estimated 10 x 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Assignments</td>
<td>Estimated 10 x 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Practicals</td>
<td>2 x 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz Practicals</td>
<td>Estimated 10 x 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iNaturalist</td>
<td>10 x 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Projects</td>
<td>Several options</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL POSSIBLE</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading System
Course grades will be dependent upon completing course requirements and meeting the student learning outcomes.

The following grading scale is in use for this course:
- A = 90.00-100 points
- B = 80.00-89.99 points
- C = 70.00-79.99 points
- D = 60.00-69.99 points
- F = 0-59.99 points (Grades are not rounded up)

Assignment and Activity Descriptions
I will use traditional lectures, textbook reading assignments, pop quizzes, and short answer tests. However, I will also ask students to lead classes, participate in class activities, present research articles, venture outdoors to observe animals, and

General Policies Related to This Course
All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in these documents:

- [Angelo State University Student Handbook](#)
- [Angelo State University Catalog](#)
Academic Integrity
Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in all work. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject to disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

The College of Science and Engineering adheres to the university’s Statement of Academic Integrity.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA) and subsequent legislation.

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at ADA@angelo.edu. For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the Student Disability Services website. The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

Dallas Swafford
Director of Student Disability Services
Office of Student Affairs
325-942-2047
dallas.swafford@angelo.edu
Houston Harte University Center, Room 112

Incomplete Grade Policy
It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. Documentation may be required. See ASU Operating Policy 10.11 Grading Procedures for more information.

Plagiarism
Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU’s Academic Integrity policy in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else’s work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one’s own. Plagiarism is literary theft.
In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word-for-word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list.

Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the ASU Writing Center.

**Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Days**

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day for more information.

**Title IX at Angelo State University**

The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including: sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance.

Students are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU’s Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator at:

Michelle Miller, J.D.
Special Assistant to the President and Title IX Coordinator
Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
325-486-6357
michelle.boone@angelo.edu

You may also [file a report online](#) 24/7.

If you are wishing to speak to someone about an incident in confidence you may contact the University Health Clinic and Counseling Center at 325-942-2173 or the ASU Crisis Helpline at 325-486-6345.

For more information, visit the [Title IX website](#).

**Required Use of Masks/Facial Coverings by Students**

As a member of the Texas Tech University System, Angelo State University has adopted the mandatory [Facial Covering Policy](#) to ensure a safe and healthy classroom experience.
Current research on the COVID-19 virus suggests there is a significant reduction in the potential for transmission of the virus from person to person by wearing a mask/facial covering that covers the nose and mouth areas. Therefore, in compliance with the university policy students in this class are required to wear a mask/facial covering before, during, and after class. Faculty members may also ask you to display your daily screening badge as a prerequisite to enter the classroom. You are also asked to maintain safe distancing practices to the best of your ability. For the safety of everyone, any student not appropriately wearing a mask/facial covering will be asked to leave the classroom immediately. The student will be responsible to make up any missed class content or work. Continued non-compliance with the Texas Tech University System Policy may result in disciplinary action through the Office of Student Conduct.

Modifications to the Syllabus
This syllabus, including grade evaluation and course schedule, is subject to modification. In particular, the COVID-19 pandemic may require significant changes in course delivery and content on potentially short notice.

Course Schedule

**Tentative Lecture Topics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction, Syllabus</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systematics</td>
<td>1 – 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reproduction</td>
<td>4 – 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physiology</td>
<td>6 - 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behavior</td>
<td>8 – 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecology, Biogeography, Conservation</td>
<td>12 - 14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional readings will be announced

**Tentative Lab Topics**

Dichotomous Keys- Using and making
Amphibian Anatomy, Taxonomy and Identification
Tadpole Development
Reptilian Anatomy, Taxonomy and Identification
Field techniques and observations
Individual Projects

**Lecture Test Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>Intro – Evolution</td>
<td>March 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>Evolution - Populations</td>
<td>Apr 9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>