

Dakota College at Bottineau Course Syllabus

Course Prefix/Number/Title: FWLD 243 - Ornithology

Course Description: An introduction to the biology, classification and identification of birds.

Course Objectives: A) To understand the taxonomy of bird orders and families and the evolutionary developments from earliest to modern species, B) To investigate the physiological processes of all avian types and modifications from one type to another, and C) Field identification of N. American birds.

Instructor: Allan Aufforth

Office: Nelson Science Center 102

Office Hours: MWF 11:00-12:00

Phone: 701-228-5463

Email: al.aufforth@dakotacollege.edu

Lecture/Lab Schedule: MWF 10:00-10:50/ Wed. 3:00-4:50/ Thurs. 1:00-1:50

Textbook(s): *Ornithology* by Frank B. Gill
Field Guide (choice)

Course Requirements: 3 major exams each 120 pts.
Weekly quizzes each 20 pts.
4 Laboratory practical exams each 60 pts.

Grading Schedule: 90-100% = A
80-89% = B
70-79% = C
60-69% = D
<60% = F

Tentative Course Outline:

- A. The Diversity of Birds: Basic characteristics of birds. Bird names and classifications.
- B. Avian History: Evolution of feathers, avian flight, and mandible/feet.
- C. Form and Function: Feathers, flight, physiology, and feeding.
- D. Behavior and Communication: Brains/senses, visual communication, and vocal communication.
- E. Reproduction and Development: Reproduction, nests/incubation, mates, growth and development, and parental care.
- F. Population Dynamics and Conservation: Demography, population, species, communities and conservation of endangered species.
- G. Behavior and the Environment: Annual cycles of birds, migration, navigation, and social behavior.

General Education Goals/Objectives:

Goal # 1: Explains the interrelationships between humans and their environment and the role of science in their lives.

Objective 3: Demonstrates an awareness of the role of science in everyday life.

Skill 1. Applies scientific principles to life experiences.

Skill 2. Recognizes the role of science in understanding nature and society.

Relationship to Campus Theme:

This course is a study of the natural functions of reproduction and survival methods of birds.

Classroom Policies:

All students will respect the classroom environment that will allow for maximum interaction between students and the professor. All cell phones will be turned off when entering the classroom, unless an emergency call is anticipated.

Academic Integrity:

All students will do their own, original work on reports, laboratory assignments, and essays. Any student caught cheating on an exam or quiz will be reprimanded the first time. If it happens again, the student will drop the class.

Disabilities and Special Needs:

Please inform the professor within the first week of classes if any assistance is required due to disabilities or special needs.