

Syllabus for Avian Biology (ZOO4472)

Lectures: Tu (periods 3,4) Th (Period 3) CSE A 101; Labs W or F (Periods 2-5: Carr 120)

Instructor: Scott Robinson (srobinson@flmnh.ufl.edu) 273-1965, 307 Dickinson Hall

TAs: Stephanie Wheeler and Ian Ausprey, 305 Dickinson

Text: Ornithology, Fourth Edition (Gill and Prum)

Office Hours: Each Wed. 1-3 or by appointment; all meetings will be via zoom.

Date Lecture topic (Chapter in Text)

Section 1: Evolution, flight, senses, and physiology

- Jan. 12 Introduction (Preface)
- 14 Origin and Diversity (1)
- 19 Evolutionary History (2)
- 21 Phylogenetics and Systematics; speciation (3, 19)
- 26 Feathers and the evolution of flight (4,5)
- 28 Flight, continued
- Feb. 2 Physiology (6)
- 4 Senses and cognition (7)
- 9 Cognition, cont.
- 11 **Review for Exam 1 (Exam in evening at 7:00PM)**

Section 2: Behavior

- 16 Vocalizations (8)
- 18 Migration patterns (10)
- 23 Migration and orientation (10)
- 25 Social Behavior (11)
- March 2 Social behavior; bird sex (12)
- 4 Annual Cycles (Felicity: Chapter 9)
- 9 Guest lectures: Lisa Donovan (Intratropical migration) and John Terborgh
- 11 Sexual selection (13)
- 16 Mating Systems (14)
- 18 **Review for Exam 2 (Exam in the evening at 7:00PM)**

Section 3: Life Histories, Population and Community Ecology, and Conservation

- 23 Brood parasitism (14)
- 25 Cooperative breeding (14)
- 30 Nests and incubation (15); Parents and offspring (16)
- April 1 Life histories (18)
- 06 Community ecology (20)
- 08 Community ecology (20)

- 13 Conservation (21)
- 15 Conservation (21)
- 20 **Review for Exam 3 (Exam in evening at 7:00 PM)**

Laboratory

Meets weekly in the mornings when we go over avian anatomy, learn the families of birds of the world, and learn how to identify birds by sight and sound. We hope to provide weekend field trips pending feasibility.

Grading:

3 hourly exams, each worth 100 points=300 points. Exams held in the evenings from 7-10; class on the day of the exam will be a review session).

Lab: 160 points

No cumulative final

Total: 460 points

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/