

MAJOR
COURSE
OBJECTIVES

Major objectives of this course are to:

1. Define the elements of the study of ornithology.
2. Identify the physical and morphological characteristics of birds.
3. Understand the unique physiology of birds.
4. Identify bird behaviors and understand their adaptive significance.
5. Understand the role of song in avian ecology.
6. Understand the reproductive ecology of birds.
7. Understand the principles underlying avian migration.
8. Develop proficiency in bird identification by sight and sound
9. Develop communication skills (written and e-based)
10. Emphasize professional ethics in writing assignments and field activities

Topical Outline

Topic #1	Birds as Flying Machines - Introduction
Topic #2	Bird Flight – Bird Taxonomy
Topic #3	Morphology/Anatomy – Skin, Scales, Feathers and other parts
Topic #4	Digestion and Food
Topic #5	Internal Systems – Circulatory, Respiratory, etc...
Topic #6	Energy Balance and Thermoregulation
Topic #7	Nervous System
Topic #8	Bird Song – not just another pretty voice!
Topic #9	Territory, Courtship & Mating Habits
Topic #10	Nests and Eggs
Topic #11	Incubation and Care of Young
Topic #12	Parental Care
Topic #13	Migration and Orientation
Topic #14	Bird Conservation: Local, Regional, and Global Issues

EVALUATION OF THE STUDENT

Specific Factors

1. **Exams:** There will be one midterm and one pre-final exam. Each of these exams will consist of essay and short answer questions totaling 100 points. There will be an optional (150 pt) final exam for students wishing to improve their grades. The prefinal and final exam will be comprehensive of all lecture materials. Most examination questions come from the lecture materials covered in class; experience shows that those students who attend class have the least difficulty obtaining a good grade.

2. **Attendance and Other In-Class Policies:** Attendance is **important!** Being on time and not leaving class early are important. Class discussion and interaction can make a difference in your overall success with all aspects of this course. However, I do not take attendance in laboratories or lectures but I'm usually aware of students that have poor attendance. Poor attendance is almost always reflected in your performance on quizzes

and examinations. Please avoid chewing tobacco in class—you are welcome to take a break out in the hall or outside if you need. In consideration for others please **TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES** during class periods.

*** Students are entitled to “reasonable accommodations” under the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Those in need of such accommodation should notify the instructor and make appropriate arrangements with the SDSU Office of Disabilities Services, 110 West Hall, 688-4504 or 688-4032.***

3. Class Participation:

Reading assignments should be read in advance of scheduled class time. When reviewed during class, students are expected to contribute to class discussions.

4. Grading Scale:

(See final grade calculation below). For the final calculation of student's course grade, the final scale will be used:

90-100%	= A
80-89%	= B
70-79%	= C
60-69%	= D
59% or below	= F

5. Final Grade Calculation:

Your final grade will be calculated based on points earned from exams and reports. Total points earned divided by total possible points and converted to a percentage will result in a score between 0 - 100%. That percentage will be converted to a letter grade using the standard grade scale (see above). I will lower these limits if dictated by a lower distribution of student performance. However, you can be *assured* of receiving your desired grade by attaining these averages.

6. Possible Points

Lecture

Midterm Lecture Exam	100 points
11 Lecture Quizzes (15 pts each, drop lowest)	150 points
Pre-Final Exam	100 points
Optional Final Exam	150 points

Laboratory

Lab Exam (anatomy, morphology, topography, etc)	75 points
6 Lab Quizzes (10 pts each – no drops)	60 points
Classroom Bird ID Test – from slides and study sking	100 points
Field Identification Test	100 points
2 Species Profiles (50 pts each)	100 points
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Total Points Possible (with optional final)	935 points
Total Points Possible (without optional final)	785 points

7. Species Profiles

During the course of the semester, two (2) profiles will be completed on 2 different species of birds (assigned by the instructor). The profiles will be no more than 3 pages in length and electronically submitted to me as an email attachment on regular email (**NOT ON D2L MAIL!**). The profiles will outline the distribution, abundance, status, breeding ecology, and life history aspects of the selected species. The students will utilize a minimum of 3 references for each profile (no internet sources allowed). Each profile will be worth a total possible 50 points towards the final grade in the class. Due dates for each species profile are provided on the course schedule; both papers are due at the start of lecture. Use the format from one of the professional bird journals such as the Auk, Condor, Wilson Bulletin, and Journal of Field Ornithology to see how to arrange your literature cited. Your paper should be no more than three typed pages in length (double spaced) excluding the literature cited section at the end. Margins should be approximately 2.4 cm (1 in) all around. Do not use erasable type. Type size should be the same as on this page (size 12) and the paper should be double spaced throughout. No extra space (other than the normal double) should be between paragraphs. Start the Literature Cited right after the body of the paper as in a journal article. You must cite at least three (3) sources. ***You cannot use internet citations.*** Do not divide the paper into sections and subsections. Late papers will be penalized 1 point each working day (Saturday and Sunday count as one day if the paper is turned in by 8:30 A.M. Monday) or part of day they are late.

Double check your paper for spelling and grammatical errors; there should be no mistakes of this nature in such a short paper. ***Plagiarism is to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own, or use (another's production) without crediting the source. It can also be interpreted as literary theft; to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source (from Webster's Dictionary). Avoid plagiarism, the penalty for plagiarism can be failure of the course.*** Make sure to cite or give credit to information you get from research papers or other sources. **You cannot use the same sentences as the author you are citing or of any other person unless you put quotes around the material.** It is best and preferable to put everything into your own words and sentences. Refer to the Department's Academic Dishonesty Policy (attached as a syllabus supplement) for further information. The objective of the assignment is to improve your written communication skills.¹

8. Assistance and Office Hours: My office is in NPB 138D, and my phone is 688-4781. If you telephone me and I am not in my office please leave a message and a way for me to contact you. I have an open door policy and will talk to students whenever I am in my office (or elsewhere for that matter). Immediately following class is a good time to contact me to ask questions or to make an appointment.

9. Communication Skills: Communication skills represent an integral part of this course; approximately 15 to 20% (depending on whether you take the optional final or not) (100 pts) of the course grade is based on performance in this area. The species profiles papers are graded on syntax (50%) and style, content, and format for our

discipline (50%). These assignments require literature searching and assignment completion that involves electronic information/technology-based skills.

10. Freedom in Learning: Freedom in learning. Students are responsible for learning the content of any course of study in which they are enrolled. Under Board of Regents and University policy, student academic performance shall be evaluated solely on an academic basis and students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study. Students who believe that an academic evaluation is unrelated to academic standards but is related instead to judgment of their personal opinion or conduct should first contact the instructor of the course. If the student remains unsatisfied, the student may contact the department head and/or dean of the college which offers the class to initiate a review of the evaluation.

¹ This is part of a University wide effort **to improve written communication skills** by providing writing experience in as many classes as possible.

ORNITHOLOGY – WL 363 -- Lecture and Laboratory Schedule

Spring 2009, K.C. Jensen, Office: NPB 138D

Date	Day	Lecture	Laboratory Schedule for week of
Jan 16	F	Lect. starts on Friday; Introduction – Birds as Flying Machines <i>Gill – Chapters 1 - 3</i>	
Jan 19 Jan 21 Jan 23	M W F	MLK Holiday – No Class on Monday Birds as Flying Machines - Feathers and Flight <i>Gill – Chapters 4 - 5</i> (Lecture Quiz 1 on Friday)	Topography, feathers, feather tracts, skeleton, External morphology. (Jan 22 and 23)
Jan 26 Jan 28 Jan 30	M W F	Nervous System and Sensory Perception in Birds <i>Gill – Chapter 7</i> (Lecture Quiz 2 on Friday)	Order and family characteristics; (Jan 29 and 30) (10 pt Lab Quiz 1).
Feb 02 Feb 04 Feb 06	M W F	Blood and Avian Physiology / Energetics <i>Gill – Chapter 6</i> (Lecture Quiz 3 on Friday)	Internal morphology (bring dissecting kit or scalpel, probe, and forceps if you have them), Brain and eye; (10 pt Lab Quiz 2).
Feb 09 Feb 11 Feb 13	M W F	Food, Digestion, and Feeding Habits <i>Gill – Chapter 6</i> Laboratory exam (75 pts) on Wednesday (11th) in lecture. (Lecture Quiz 4 on Friday)	Identification and life history. Also some Songs and calls. <i>Bring field guide to all ID labs.</i>
Feb 16 Feb 18 Feb 20	M W F	President's Day Holiday - NO Classes on Monday Basics of Bird Behavior <i>Gill – Chapter 11 (& other info)</i> LECTURE EXAM - FRIDAY	Identification and life history. (10 pt Lab Quiz 3).
Feb 23 Feb 25 Feb 27	M W F	Bird Song / Vocal Communication <i>Gill – Chapter 8</i> (Lecture Quiz 5 on Friday) 1st Species Profile Due on F 2/27	Identification and life history. (10 pt Lab Quiz 4).
Mar 02 Mar 04 Mar 06	M W F	Photoperiodism, Courtship, Territories & Mating Habits <i>Gill Chapters 9, 12 13, 14</i> (Lecture Quiz 6 on Friday)	Identification and life history (10 pt Lab Quiz 5).
Mar 09 Mar 11 Mar 13	M W F	SPRING BREAK WEEK	<i>Have fun birding. Add some new observations to your life list!</i>
Mar 16 Mar 18 Mar 20	M W F	Nests and Eggs <i>Gill – Chapters 14 & 15</i> (Lecture Quiz 7 on Friday)	Identification and life history (10 pt Lab Quiz 6).
Mar 23 Mar 25 Mar 27	M W F	Incubation & Care of Young. <i>Gill – Chapters 15 & 16</i> (Lecture Quiz 8 on Friday)	Field trip—waterfowl and other early migrants. Meet at ABS motor pool. Field guide and binoculars needed on field trips.
Mar 30 Apr 01 Apr 03	M W F	Incubation & Care of Young. <i>Gill – Chapters 15 & 16</i> (Lecture Quiz 9 on Friday)	Field trip. Brookings County and nearby. Meet at ABS motor pool

Apr 06 Apr 08 Apr 10	M W F	Migration and Orientation <i>Gill – Chapter 10</i> Easter Break April 10 -13 2nd Species Profile Due on Wed 4/08	No Labs this week – Easter Break
Apr 13 Apr 15 Apr 17	M W F	Easter Break April 10 -13 Migration and Orientation <i>Gill – Chapter 10</i> (Lecture Quiz 10 on Friday)	Field trip. Brookings County and nearby. Meet at ABS motor pool
Apr 20 Apr 22 Apr 24	M W F	100 pt Lab ID test in lecture (M) Bird Distribution/Biogeography <i>Gill Chapter 19 & Handouts</i> (Lecture Quiz 11 on Friday)	Field trip. Brookings County and nearby. Meet at ABS motor pool.
Apr 27 Apr 29 May 01	M W F	Avian Conservation – Local / Regional / Global Issues <i>Gill - Chapter 21</i> 100 pt prefinal (comprehen.) on Wed Apr 29. Friday-Return prefinal and review answers. Last day of classes.	Field ID Test: 100 pts possible– Includes common names, songs, selected scientific names, Families, Orders, Tribes (ducks). We usually end up with 25 to 40 questions depending on bird species we are able to find. Meet at ABS motor pool.
May 8 (Friday) Comprehensive final examination (150 pts): 9:00-10:40 AM; Final is optional.			

More on quizzes and tests: The lowest lecture quiz is dropped--no lab quizzes are dropped. If you miss a quiz for a good reason and you normally have good attendance you may schedule a time with me to retake the quiz. A makeup test of a major examination is accompanied by a 10% penalty unless you call ahead of the examination time and have a legitimate excuse. If I am not in, leave a message at 688-6121 and leave your telephone number and where you can be reached. If you arrive late for laboratory quizzes the questions will not be repeated for you. If you are late for a lecture quiz you can still answer the written questions but you will not have extra time.

On texts and other purchases: Your lecture text is: **Frank B. Gill, Ornithology.** 3rd Edition. The manual used for the first four labs is **Manual of Ornithology by N. S. Proctor and P. J. Lynch.** A **field guide** is needed for ID labs both indoors and in the field. Students need binoculars but can check out a pair for the semester. Most of the birds on the laboratory ID test and lab quizzes will be shown on a projected computer screen from the CD **"Birds of North America"**. A copy will be on the computer in the laboratory and copies will be at the library. I recommend students purchase a copy of the CD. If you are interested in a copy we can ask for a group rate and that will reduce the price if it is not already on sale.

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences

Academic Dishonesty Policy

(Revised Nov. 2000)

The Department and the University have taken a strong and clear stand regarding academic dishonesty. We believe that it is unethical and unprofessional to present work done by others in a manner indicating that the student/s is/are presenting material as his/her original ideas or work; such activity is academic dishonesty. Plagiarizing or knowingly assisting others in plagiarizing on tests, quizzes, problems, assignments, research papers, theses, dissertations, or other academic activities is unacceptable behavior. All academic work completed by students is expected to be the original work of that individual student, unless permission is specifically granted beforehand by the faculty member for some form of team effort or other format. If students are unsure if a particular activity may be regarded as a form of academic dishonesty they should consult the faculty member before undertaking such an activity.

The University has a policy on academic honesty, procedures for academic grade and dishonesty appeals, and sanctions for such activities (see Student Code). The Student Code has **different** procedures for undergraduate and graduate students.

The Department policy described in this handout is intended to attempt to address perceived academic dishonesty violations between the faculty member/s and student/s **before** Student Code procedures are implemented. This is done because under Student Code procedures the **minimum** penalty for academic dishonesty is Disciplinary Probation. These added Department steps (Steps 1, 2, and 3 of the Undergraduate Student and Graduate Student Procedures) should not be construed as an attempt to circumvent the Student Code system; both students and/or the faculty member have the option to go directly into that system. The Department procedures portion of this policy are only available to a student one time; any second perceived offense will immediately follow the Student Code procedures.

Undergraduate Student Procedure

1. When a student/s is/are determined to have broken the Academic Dishonesty Policy, he/she will be notified **verbally** by the faculty member involved as to the problem and sanction selected. This is similar to procedures 02:02:01:03 and 02:02:01:04 in the Student Code. The faculty member will do this immediately after the perceived violation occurs. Sanction options available to the faculty member are as follows:
 - a. provide the student/s a grade of zero or some other score on the test, quiz, problem, assignment, or other academic endeavor involved;
 - b. provide the student/s a grade of "F" in the course;

- c. request that the student/s withdraw from the course;
- d. request that the student/s change the grading for the course to an “audit”; or
- e. immediately refer the case to the Student Code procedures.

The sanction selected is at the discretion of the faculty member, based on the seriousness of the situation.

2. If the student/s agrees to the sanction proposed by the faculty member the process is completed.
3. If the student/s does not agree to the sanction proposed by the faculty member, he/she has the right to appeal the faculty member’s decision. This **Informal Phase Appeal** should be made directly (**both verbally and in writing**) to the faculty member involved within 5 class days of notification or within 7 calendar days of notification, if the incident is at the end of the semester. The faculty member may then modify or leave unchanged the sanction proposed in step 1. A copy of the student’s **written appeal** and the faculty member’s **written response** will be sent to the Department Head so that a confidential record to protect the student/s and the faculty member is established. The student/s written appeal and faculty member written response will be secured in the student’s file until graduation or he/she leaves the program; if no further perceived violations have occurred these materials will be purged from the student’s file.
4. If the student/s is/are still dissatisfied with the decision he/she can appeal to the Department Head. This **Informal Phase Appeal** should be made **verbally**. The Department Head will utilize this verbal appeal and the written student appeal and faculty written response described in step 3 to reach a decision. (These are steps 02:02:01:05, 02:02:01:06, and 02:02:01:07 in the **Informal Phase Appeal** process described in the Student Code).
5. If the student/s and faculty member agree with the Department Head’s decision, the process is completed. Up to this point, no one other than the student/s, faculty member, and Department Head has been made aware of the situation.
6. If the student/s or faculty member is/are dissatisfied with the Department Head’s decision they can enter the **Formal Phase** of the Student Code process (Student Code 02:02:02). It is the responsibility of the faculty member and student/s to be aware of the procedures and penalties involved.

Graduate Student Procedure

1. Same as Undergraduate Student Procedure step 1, except that the student's advisor and/or Advisory Committee **may** be involved (see Student Code 02:05:01:02, 02:05:01:03, and 02:05:01:04).¹
2. Same as Undergraduate Student Procedure step 2, except that the student's advisor and/or Advisory Committee **may** be involved (see Student Code 02:05:01:02, 02:05:01:03, and 02:05:01:04).
3. Same as Undergraduate Student Procedure step 3, except that the student's advisor and/or Advisory Committee **may** be involved (see Student Code 02:05:01:02, 02:05:01:03, and 02:05:01:04).
4. If the student/s is/are still dissatisfied with the decision he/she can **verbally** appeal to the Graduate Dean. (These are steps 02:05:01:05, 02:05:01:06, and 02:05:01:07 in the **Informal Phase Appeal** process described in the Student Code.)
5. If all agree on the proposed sanction at this point, the process is completed. Up to this point, no one other than the student/s, faculty member, Graduate Dean, and possibly the student's advisor and Advisory Committee has been made aware of the situation.
6. If the student/s, faculty member, advisor, or Advisory Committee are dissatisfied with the Graduate Dean's decision they can enter the **Formal Phase** (Student Code 02:05:02) of the Student Code process. It is the responsibility of the student/s, faculty member, and student's advisor and Advisory Committee to be aware of the procedures and penalties involved.

¹The student's advisor and/or Advisory Committee **may** be included because items other than class work could be involved.