Ornithology (Biology 4231)

Professor: Dr. Janice M. Hughes
Office: CB 4052

Course description:

The biology of birds, including their evolution, systematics, anatomy, ecology, and behaviour. Aspects of avian morphology, such as plumages, internal anatomy, and adaptations for feeding and locomotion, will be examined using study specimens. Identification, behaviour, and natural history of Ontario birds will be emphasized.

Contact information: Email: janice.hughes@lakeheadu.ca

Please note: I do not carry a mobile device at all times so please do not expect an immediate response to your email. Also, I may not open emails that have been sent from accounts other than your university account (e.g., hotmail) so use your *lakeheadu.ca* email for all of your messages.

Office hours:

Office hours by appointment are available and encouraged. Contacting me by email is best. Also, I am always in attendance in the labs.

Lab manual: Hughes, J. M. *Ornithology Lab Manual.*
Download from the D2L course webpage.

Please note the following:

Lectures:

1. Attendance is highly recommended. Lecture notes will not be provided, and the PDFs of slides only show a brief outline of the course material. The things that I say in class are important!

2. There is no textbook; however, extensive resources are available on the D2L course website, including PDF outlines of lecture slides, glossaries, bird checklists, and on-line study aids.

3. There are two lecture tests that total 50% of the course grade. They are not cumulative. These tests will be held in class (not online as in previous years).

4. There will be a bird ID quiz (on common birds in the Thunder Bay area) held in class on November 18. The quiz will be based on photographs of birds that I will show at the beginning of each class from September 16 to November 13. You must be in class to observe the bird photographs because they will not be available elsewhere. More information on this quiz will be given in class.

5. If you miss a test due to illness, you must (1) inform me by email within 24 hours of the scheduled test time, and (2) provide a doctor's note within 5 days of the missed test that explains your absence. Otherwise, you will not be able to write a make-up test. Athletes who will miss a test due to out-of-town competitions must provide a letter or email from their coach in advance that clearly shows the dates of their competitions.

Labs:

1. Students taking this course will be required to observe and/or handle bird study skins and skeletons during the laboratory sessions.

2. Attendance in the labs is highly recommended because there is no review lab prior to the lab exam. Make sure that you have a good understanding of the material before you leave each lab. I will be present in each lab so please ask questions!

3. There will be a bell-ringer lab exam held on November 4. More information about this testing process will be provided in class.

Assignments:

1. There is a short lab assignment in each lab that must be completed before you leave the lab. Late assignments will not be accepted.

2. The avian conservation class discussion grade comprises an in-class participation portion (held in the lab on November 11) and a short follow-up point-of-view written paper due December 2. The point-of-view paper must be handed into the Dropbox on the D2L course website (PDFs only please!). More information will be provided in class. You can also find more information about this assignment and a marking rubric on the D2L course webpage. Please remember that there is zero tolerance for plagiarism in this course. The minimum penalty for plagiarism on the point-of-view paper will be a mark of zero on the assignment.

Additional information:

1. I am committed to providing a learning environment that will give all students the best possible chance of success in this course. Please come and see me during office hours (or by appointment), or talk to me in class or lab, if I can be of assistance.

2. For students registered with Student Accessibility Services, I can offer many solutions for your recommended accommodations. Please make an appointment and we can discuss these options.

Grading scheme:

Midterm test	October 23	25%
Bird ID quiz	November 18	10%
Final test	November 25	25%
Lab assignment 1	September 16	1%
Lab assignment 2	September 30	1%
Lab assignment 3	October 21	1%
Lab exam	November 4	25%
Class discussion	November 11	4%
Point-of-view paper	December 2	8%

Lecture Topic Outline

September 4		Introduction to the course
September 9	Unit 1	Avian origins
September 11	Unit 2	Avian classification
September 16	Unit 3	Feathers: Structure, growth, molt, and plumage
September 18	Unit 4	Flight mechanics
September 23		
September 25	Unit 5	Physiology and adaptation
September 30	Unit 6	Migration and navigation
October 2	Unit 7	Feeding: Apparatus and strategies
October 7	Unit 8	Visual communication
October 9		
October 14/16		**Study Week (no classes)**
October 21	Unit 9	Vocal communication
October 23		**Midterm Test (Units 1-7)**
October 28	Unit 10	Social behaviour
October 30		
November 4	Unit 11	Breeding systems
November 6	Unit 12	Reproductive anatomy and physiology
November 11	Unit 13	Nests and parental care
November 13		
November 18	Unit 14	Growth and development **Bird ID Quiz**
November 20	Unit 15	Demographics: Populations and communities
November 25		**Final Test (Units 8-15)**
Nov 27/ Dec 2		**No Classes**

Laboratory Topic Outline

September 9		**No lab**
September 16	Lab 1	Form and function: Feathers and flight
September 23		**No lab**
September 30	Lab 2	Form and function: Feeding
October 7		**No lab**
October 14		**Study Week No lab**
October 21	Lab 3	Form and function: Everything else
October 28		**No lab**
November 4		Lab Exam
November 11		Class discussion: Avian conservation
November 18		**No lab**
November 25		**No lab**
December 2		**No lab**