

Ornithology (Biology 423 I)

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

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Office hours: Scheduled office hours: Wednesday 3:00-4:00

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

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.

Required supplementary notes: Hughes, J. M. *Ornithology Lab Manual*.
Lakehead University Bookstore.

Please note the following:

Lectures:

1. 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.
2. There are two online lecture tests that total 40% of the course grade overall. These exams are not cumulative. There is no exam scheduled during the final exam period in December.
3. 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!

Labs:

1. Students taking this course will be required to observe and/or handle bird study skins and skeletons during the laboratory sessions. Those who are uncomfortable with this practice should not register in this course.

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 lab exam held during the ninth week of term. Attendance at this time is mandatory because there is no make-up exam for the lab exam.

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 class discussion grade comprises a participation portion and a follow-up point-of-view written paper. 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.
3. The major project for the course is a field notebook of bird observations made during the term. Field notebooks handed in late will be penalized by 5% per day, and will not be accepted after December 1. Students who do not hand in a field notebook by this date will receive a 0% for this assignment. More information will be provided in class. I recommend that you begin this assignment early in the fall while there is still an abundance of bird activity in the area.

Grading scheme:

Midterm test	October 6	15%
Final test	November 28	25%
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Lab assignment 1	September 21	1%
Lab assignment 2	October 5	1%
Lab assignment 3	October 19	1%
Lab exam	November 2	25%
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Class discussion	November 9	4%
Point-of-view paper	November 22	8%
Field notebook	November 24 (in class)	20%
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Lecture Topic Outline

September 6		Introduction to the course
September 8	Unit 1	Avian origins
September 13	Unit 2	Avian classification
September 15	Unit 3	Feathers: Structure, growth, molt, and plumage
September 20	Unit 4	Flight mechanics
September 22		
September 27	Unit 5	Physiology and adaptation
September 29	Unit 6	Migration and navigation
October 4	Unit 7	Feeding: Apparatus and strategies
October 6		Midterm Test (Units 1-6)
October 11/13		Study Week (no classes)
October 18	Unit 8	Visual communication
October 20		
October 25	Unit 9	Vocal communication
October 27	Unit 10	Social behaviour
November 1		
November 3	Unit 11	Breeding systems
November 8		
November 10	Unit 12	Reproductive anatomy and physiology
November 15	Unit 13	Nests and parental care
November 17		
November 22	Unit 14	Growth and development
November 24	Unit 15	Demographics: Populations and communities
November 28 (Monday)		Final Test (Units 7-15)
Nov 29/ Dec 1		No classes

Laboratory Topic Outline

September 7		No lab
September 14		No lab
September 21	Lab 1	Form and function: Feathers and flight
September 28		No lab
October 5	Lab 2	Form and function: Feeding
October 12		Study Week No lab
October 19	Lab 3	Form and function: Everything else
October 26		No lab
November 2		<u>Lab Exam</u>
November 9		<u>Class discussion:</u> Avian conservation
November 16		No lab
November 23		No lab
November 30		No lab