

Ornithology (Biology 423 I)

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

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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.

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.

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 online lecture tests that total 50% of the course grade overall. They are not cumulative. There is no exam scheduled during the final exam period in December. Please remember that you must do these online tests alone (no help or collaboration!). Also, cutting and pasting, copying, or downloading answers from another source (e.g., Wikipedia) is considered plagiarism. The minimum penalty for plagiarism or collaboration on the tests will be a mark of zero on the test. You can find more information about the online tests on the D2L course webpage. Not reading these instructions is not an excuse for not knowing them!

4. There will be a bird ID quiz (common birds in the Thunder Bay area) held in class on November 20. The quiz will be based on photographs of birds that I will show at the beginning of each class from September 18 to November 15. 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.

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 bell-ringer lab exam held on October 31. 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 14) and a short follow-up point-of-view written paper due December 3. 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 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 16	25%
Bird ID quiz	November 20 (in class)	10%
Final test	November 26 (Monday)	25%
Lab assignment 1	September 19	1%
Lab assignment 2	October 3	1%
Lab assignment 3	October 17	1%
Lab exam	October 31	25%
Class discussion	November 14	4%
Point-of-view paper	December 3	8%

Lecture Topic Outline

September 4		Introduction to the course
September 6	Unit 1	Avian origins
September 11	Unit 2	Avian classification
September 13	Unit 3	Feathers: Structure, growth, molt, and plumage
September 18	Unit 4	Flight mechanics
September 20		
September 25	Unit 5	Physiology and adaptation
September 27	Unit 6	Migration and navigation
October 2	Unit 7	Feeding: Apparatus and strategies
October 4	Unit 8	Visual communication
October 9/11		Study Week (no classes)
October 16		Midterm Test (Units 1-6)
October 18	Unit 8	Visual communication (continued)
October 23	Unit 9	Vocal communication
October 25	Unit 10	Social behaviour
October 30		
November 1	Unit 11	Breeding systems
November 6		
November 8	Unit 12	Reproductive anatomy and physiology
November 13	Unit 13	Nests and parental care
November 15		
November 20	Unit 14	Growth and development Bird ID Quiz
November 22	Unit 15	Demographics: Populations and communities
November 26 (Monday)		Final Test (Units 7-15)
November 27/29		No Classes

Laboratory Topic Outline

September 5		No lab
September 12		No lab
September 19	Lab 1	Form and function: Feathers and flight
September 26		No lab
October 3	Lab 2	Form and function: Feeding
October 10		Study Week No lab
October 17	Lab 3	Form and function: Everything else
October 24		No lab
October 31		<u>Lab Exam</u>
November 7		No lab
November 14		<u>Class discussion:</u> Avian conservation
November 21		No lab
November 28		No lab