

Ornithology (Biology 423 I)

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Office hours: Scheduled office hours TBA

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 Lecture and Lab Manual*.
Lakehead University Bookstore.

Please note the following:

Lectures:

1. There is no textbook for this course. However extensive resources, including PDF outlines of lecture slides, glossaries, bird checklists, and on-line study aids, are available on the course D2L website.
2. There are two lecture exams held during the term 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 in the lectures is highly recommended. Lecture notes will not be provided, and the PDFs of slides only give 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. An assignment is scheduled for each lab which must be completed and handed in during the lab session. There will be no opportunity to make up missed lab assignments.
3. There will be a lab exam held during the eighth week of term. Attendance at this time is mandatory because there is no make-up exam for the lab exam.
4. There is no review lab prior to the lab exam. Make sure that you are well grounded in all lab materials and specimens before you leave the lab!

Assignments:

1. The class discussion grade comprises a participation portion and a follow-up point-of-view written paper. More information will be provided in class.
2. The major project for the course is a field notebook of bird observations made during the term. 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 9	20%
Final test	November 25	20%
Lab assignment 1	September 24	2%
Lab assignment 2	October 8	2%
Lab assignment 3	October 22	2%
Lab test	October 29	20%
Class discussion	November 5	4%
Point-of-view paper	November 18	10%
Field notebook	November 25 (in class)	20%

Lecture Topic Outline

September 9		Introduction
September 11	Unit 1	Avian origins
September 16	Unit 2	Avian classification
September 18	Unit 3	Feathers: structure, growth, molt, and plumage
September 23	Unit 4	Flight mechanics
September 25		
September 30	Unit 5	Physiology and adaptation
October 2	Unit 6	Migration and navigation
October 7	Unit 7	Feeding: apparatus and strategy
October 9		Midterm Test (Units 1-6)
October 14	Unit 8	Visual communication
October 16		
October 21	Unit 9	Vocal communication
October 23	Unit 10	Social behaviour
October 28		
October 30	Unit 11	Breeding systems
November 4		
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
November 20	Unit 15	Demographics: populations and communities
November 25		Final Test (Units 7-15)
November 27		No lecture

Laboratory Topic Outline

September 10		No lab
September 17		No lab
September 24	Lab 1	Form and function: feathers and flight
October 1		No lab
October 8	Lab 2	Form and function: feeding
October 15		No lab
October 22	Lab 3	Form and function: everything else
October 29		<u>Lab Exam</u>
November 5		<u>Class discussion:</u> Avian conservation
November 12		No lab
November 19		No lab
November 26		No lab