

**LAB STUDIES IN HERPETOLOGY
ZOOLOGY*4940**

Winter Semester 2014

Course Instructors: Dr. J. Fu, Rm. 1465 Science Complex, ext. 52715,
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Laboratory: SCIE 2304 - Monday, Tuesday (2:30 p.m. – 5:20 p.m.)

Course Description:

This course provides a practical experience in the study of Herpetology. Using University collections of prepared and preserved specimens and field observations where possible, students will develop and apply skills in identification and sampling, explore relations between species diversity and habitat, and investigate through guided study, the extent of anatomical, skeletal, reproductive and morphological variation and its functional and evolutionary causes.

Resource Materials:

There is no required textbook for this course. If, however, you do not have a good field guide to reptiles and amphibians, you are strongly encouraged to get one. There will be a variety of texts available for use during the lab.

Tentative Laboratory Schedule

Jan 6/7 Lab 1:	Salamanders (+Gymnophiona)
Jan 13/14 Lab 2:	Frogs
Jan 20/21 Lab 3:	Turtles (+ Crocodylians)
Jan 27/28 Lab 4:	Group project proposal
Feb 3/4 Lab 5:	“Lizards” & snakes
Feb 10/11 Lab 6:	group research for project
Feb 17-21:	February Break -- no classes
Feb 24/25 Lab 7:	Ontario’s Reptiles and Amphibians
Mar 3/4 Lab 8:	Lab Exam
Mar 10/11 Lab 9:	group research for project
Mar 17/18 Lab 10:	group research for project
Mar 24/25 Lab 11:	group research for project
Mar 31/Apr 1:	Poster Presentation of research project

Mark Allocation

Project proposal: 15%
Poster presentation: 35%
Lab “Hand-ins”: 25% (Labs 1, 2, 3, 5, 7)
Midterm: 25%

Group Project

A group of three students will conduct a research project. Students will collect data from examining real specimens or from literature, conduct appropriate analyses, and test a hypothesis. The group will present their proposal (oral) in the week of Feb. 27, and receive feedback from classmates and instructors. Four weeks of lab time are allocated for student to conduct their research. A poster will be presented and evaluated during the last week's class.

Important Policies and Procedures

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Drop Date

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is March 7th. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Copies of out-of-class assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Accessibility

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact the Centre for Students with Disabilities as soon as possible. For more information, contact CSD at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email csd@uoguelph.ca or see the website:

<http://www.csd.uoguelph.ca/csd/>

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection. Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the

academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor. The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Recording of Materials

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

Academic Resources

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/index.cfm?index>