



ZOO*4940 Lab Studies in Herpetology

Winter 2019

Section(s): C01

Department of Integrative Biology

Credit Weight: 0.25

Version 1.00 - December 12, 2018

1 Course Details

1.1 Calendar 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.

Pre-Requisite(s):

15.00 credits including ZOO*2090

Restriction(s):

This is a Priority Access Course. Enrolment may be restricted to particular programs, specializations or semester levels during certain periods. Please see the departmental website for more information.

1.2 Timetable

Labs: Monday, Tuesday (2:30pm – 5:20pm) Rm 2304 Science Complex

1.3 Final Exam

There is no Final Exam for this course.

2 Instructional Support

2.1 Instructional Support Team

Instructor:

Emily Martin

Email:

emilym@uoguelph.ca

Office:

BLDG141 2505

Course Co-ordinator: Dr. Fred Laberge
Email: flaberge@uoguelph.ca
Telephone: +1-519-824-4120 x56238
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3 Learning Resources

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 and guides available for use during the lab. There is also a CourseLink website for the course. Information for the labs will be posted there.

4 Learning Outcomes

4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Identify the features of amphibians and reptiles and use these features to distinguish between various families and species
 2. Be able to identify Ontario's reptiles and amphibians and critically discuss relevant conservation issues
 3. Appreciate and practice handling collection specimens for scientific education and research purposes
 4. Collect and analyse data using some research techniques currently used in studying amphibians and reptiles
 5. Develop interesting research questions and design a study to address the topic
 6. As part of a group, conduct independent research to test predictions of a hypothesis
 7. Communicate research findings in a poster format
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5 Teaching and Learning Activities

5.1 Lab

Jan 7, 8

Topic(s): Ontario's Reptiles and Amphibians
Reference(s): Readings: Lab outline

Jan 14, 15

Topic(s): Salamanders (+Gymnophiona)
Reference(s): Readings: Lab outline

Jan 21, 22

Topic(s):	Anurans
Reference(s):	Readings: Lab outline
Jan 28, 29	
Topic(s):	Turtles (+Crocodilians)
Reference(s):	Readings: Lab outline
Feb 4, 5	
Topic(s):	"Lizards" & Snakes
Reference(s):	Readings: Lab outline
Feb 11, 12	
Topic(s):	Lab Test
Feb 18, 19	
Topic(s):	February Break - NO LABS
Feb 25, 26	
Topic(s):	Group Project Proposal
Reference(s):	Readings: Proposal Guidelines
March 4, 5	
Topic(s):	Group Research for Project
Mar 11, 12	
Topic(s):	Group Research for Project
March 18, 19	
Topic(s):	Group Research for Project
March 25, 26	
Topic(s):	Group Research for Project
April 1, 2	
Topic(s):	Poster Presentation of Group Research Project
Reference(s):	Readings: Poster Guidelines

5.2 Group Project

A group of three students will conduct a research project. Students will collect data from examining real specimens or from literature, and conduct appropriate analyses in order to test a hypothesis. The group will present their proposal orally and hand in a one-page written summary in lab the week of Feb 25, 26. Students will receive feedback from classmates and the teaching team. Four weeks of lab time are allocated for students to conduct their research. A poster will be presented and evaluated during lab the week of April 1, 2.

5.3 Important Dates

- Ontario "page": Feb 8
- Lab test: Feb 11, 12
- Project proposal: Feb 25, 26

- Fortieth class day: March 8
 - Poster presentation: April 1, 2
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6 Assessments

6.1 Assessment Details

Ontario "Page" (20%)

Date: Thu, Feb 8, Dropbox Submission

Learning Outcome(s): 1,2,3

Course Activity: Lab

Lab Test (25%)

Date: Feb 11, 12, In Lab

Learning Outcome(s): 1,2,3,4

Course Activity: Lab

Project Proposal (20%)

Date: Feb 25, 26, In Lab

Learning Outcome(s): 5

Course Activity: Lab

Poster Presentation (35%)

Date: April 1, 2, In Lab

Learning Outcome(s): 5,6,7

Course Activity: Lab

7 Course Statements

7.1 Grading

All assessment for the course takes place during the student's regularly scheduled lab period.

8 Department of Integrative Biology Statements

8.1 Academic Advisors

If you are concerned about any aspect of your academic program:

- Make an appointment with a program counsellor in your degree program. [B.Sc. Academic Advising](#) or [Program Counsellors](#)

8.2 Academic Support

If you are struggling to succeed academically:

- Learning Commons: There are numerous academic resources offered by the Learning Commons including, Supported Learning Groups for a variety of courses, workshops related to time management, taking multiple choice exams, and general study skills. You can also set up individualized appointments with a learning specialist. <http://www.learningcommons.uoguelph.ca/>
- Science Commons: Located in the library, the Science Commons provides support for physics, mathematic/statistics, and chemistry. Details on their hours of operations can be found at: <http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/get-assistance/studying/chemistry-physics-help> and <http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/get-assistance/studying/math-stats-help>

8.3 Wellness

If you are struggling with personal or health issues:

- Counselling services offers individualized appointments to help students work through personal struggles that may be impacting their academic performance. <https://www.uoguelph.ca/counselling/>
- Student Health Services is located on campus and is available to provide medical attention. <https://www.uoguelph.ca/studenthealthservices/clinic>
- For support related to stress and anxiety, besides Health Services and Counselling Services, Kathy Somers runs training workshops and one-on-one sessions related to stress management and high performance situations. <http://www.uoguelph.ca/~ksomers/>

9 University Statements

9.1 Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

9.2 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 (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. The regulations and procedures for [Academic Consideration](#) are detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.

9.3 Drop Date

Courses that are one semester long must be dropped by the end of the fortieth class day; two-semester courses must be dropped by the last day of the add period in the second semester. The regulations and procedures for [Dropping Courses](#) are available in the Undergraduate Calendar.

9.4 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.

9.5 Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required, however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance, and not later than the 40th Class Day.

More information: www.uoguelph.ca/sas

9.6 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.

9.7 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.

9.8 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.
