

**University of Guelph  
College of Biological Science**

Department of Integrative Biology

**COURSE OUTLINE**

LAB STUDIES IN HERPETOLOGY  
ZOO\*4940  
W15

**Course description**

**ZOO\*4940 Lab Studies in Herpetology W (0-3) [0.25]**

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.

*Prerequisite(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.

*Department(s):* Department of Integrative Biology

**Teaching team**

Course Instructor: Dr. Leslie Rye, Rm 2505 Science Complex, ext 56129  
email: lrye@uoguelph.ca

Teaching Assistant: TBA

**Course schedule**

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

## Learning goals and rationale

At the end of the course, students 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 an hypothesis.
- 7) Communicate research findings in a poster format.

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

## Course Content

Date	Lab Topic	Readings
Jan 5,6	Salamanders (+Gymnophiona)	Lab outline
Jan 12,13	Frogs	Lab outline
Jan 19, 20	Turtles (+Crocodilians)	Lab outline
Jan 26, 27	Group Project proposal	Proposal guidelines
Feb 2,3	"Lizards" & snakes	Lab outline
Feb 9,10	Group research for project	--
Feb 16, 17	February Break – no classes	--
Feb 23, 24	Ontario's Reptiles and Amphibians	Lab outline
March 2,3	Lab Test	--
March 9, 10	Group research for project	--
March 16, 17	Group research for project	--
March 23, 24	Group research for project	--
March 30, 31	Poster presentation of group research project	Poster guidelines

## 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 in the week of Jan 26, 27 and 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 the week of March 30, 31.

### Methods of Assessment

Form of Assessment	Weight of Assessment	Due Date of Assessment	Course Activity	Learning Outcome Addressed
Lab hand-in*	5%	In lab Jan 5,6	Lab	1,2, 3,4
Lab hand-in	5%	In lab Jan 12,13	Lab	1,3,4
Lab hand-in	5%	In lab Jan 19,20	Lab	1,3,4
Project Proposal	15%	In lab Jan 26, 27	Lab	5
Lab hand-in	5%	In lab Feb 2,3	Lab	1,3,4
Lab hand-in	5%	In lab Feb 23, 24	Lab	1, 2, 3, 4
Lab Test	25%	In lab March 2,3	Lab	1, 2, 4
Poster Presentation	35%	In lab March 30, 31	Lab	5, 6, 7

\*Note: Each lab hand-in assesses a different technique used in the study of reptiles or amphibians.

### Important Dates

Project proposal: Jan 26, 27

Lab test: March 2, 3

Fortieth class day: March 6

Poster presentation: March 30, 31

### Course and University Policies

#### 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, and be prepared to provide supporting documentation. See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration: [Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Consideration](#)

Providing acceptable documentation is provided, missed lab hand-ins will be prorated based on completed hand-ins and other assessments will be rescheduled.

## 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](mailto:csd@uoguelph.ca) or see the website: [Centre for Students with Disabilities](#)

## 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: [Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct](#)

## E-mail Communication

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

## Drop Date

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is the 40<sup>th</sup> class day. To confirm the actual date please see the schedule of dates in the Undergraduate Calendar. For

regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar:  
[Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses](#)

### 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.

### 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.

### Grading

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

### **Campus Resources**

The Academic Calendar is the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs: [Academic Calendars](#)

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](#)

If you are struggling to succeed academically:

- 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. [The Learning Commons](#)

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. [Counselling Services](#)

- Student Health Services is located on campus and is available to provide medical attention. [Student Health Services](#)
- 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. [Stress Management and High Performance Clinic](#)

If you have a documented disability or think you may have a disability:

- The Centre for Students with Disabilities (CSD) can provide services and support for students with a documented learning or physical disability. They can also provide information about how to be tested for a learning disability. For more information, including how to register with the centre please see: [Centre for Students with Disabilities](#)