Professor: Dr. John Cossel Jr.

Office: THS 226 (hours M-F 800 - 9:00 AM)

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(208) 337-4069 home (no calls after 9:00 please)

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Homepage: http://people.nnu.edu/~jocossel

Texts:

Times:
Lecture - MWF 2:15 - 3:10
Lab - Th 3:10 - 6:00

Location:
Lecture - THS 204
Lab - THS 204

Course Goals:

- Learn the identifying characteristics of ectothermic vertebrates (herpetofauna), their phylogeny, biology and ecology with some emphasis on Idaho species.
• Explore and manipulate models, dissect representative species, design and conduct research experiment(s), create a media rich species account of a selected herptetofaunal species.

• Develop an awareness of the conservation issues associated with herpetofauna, and form a sense of ethical responsibility regarding the environment and the conservation of ectothermic vertebrates.

• Develop an appreciation and awe for God's creation as represented by the wonders and intricacies of ectothermic vertebrates.

Course Objectives:
In an effort to attain the course goals, students should be able to:

1. Explain synapomorphies of Lissamphibia, Squamata, Testudines and Crocodylia.
2. Describe the features that distinguish ectotherms from endotherms and what the terms poikilothermic and homeothermic mean.
3. Classify specimens or images to the appropriate taxonomic level (using all the pertinent hierarchical levels), utilizing dichotomous keys as necessary. Family level for non-Idaho species, and species level recognition of all Idaho species, in all life forms and from mating calls as applicable.
4. Discuss how representative herpetofauna deal with the challenges of life (gas exchange, obtaining nutrients, getting rid of wastes etc.)
5. Give examples and relate the importance of various behaviors of herpetofauna as they pertain to movements, mating, communicating etc.
6. Describe the natural history of Idaho herpetofauna.
7. Interpret scientific terminology based on an understanding of Latin and Greek word parts.
8. Discuss the implications/importance of current events as they pertain to the conservation of these taxa.
9. Develop a detailed awareness of the natural history and conservation issues of an endangered species of choice.

Assessment and Evaluation:
My evaluation scheme is based on your mastery of the course objectives rather than competition between students. In fact, I am interested in classroom discussion and cooperation as it enhances everyone's success. It is my aim to assess each course objective at least once during the course.

The points in the lecture portion of class will be distributed among regular assessments (quizzes, questions, projects, etc.), and 3-4 exams and a comprehensive final exam. Exams will constitute about 50% of the course, and assignments, quizzes, projects etc. will constitute the other ~50%.
Although subject to modification, the approximate values for each category are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Scale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecture * Exams</td>
<td>100-92% = A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Assignments etc.</td>
<td>91-90% = A-</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>89-88% = B+</td>
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<td></td>
<td>87-82% = B</td>
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<td></td>
<td>81-80% = B-</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>79-78% = C+</td>
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<td>77-72% = C</td>
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<td></td>
<td>71-70% = C-</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>69-68% = D+</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>67-62% = D</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>61-60% = D-</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&lt;60% = F</td>
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</tbody>
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Grades will be determined by the total number of points obtained divided by the total number of points possible. Letter grades will be assigned using the scale below.

Due to the nature of this class (hands-on, lab having a weekly meeting time etc.) it is essential that you attend all class sessions. I will not assign points for attendance. However, if you are absent without making prior arrangements with me, any missed assessments (assignments, quizzes or exams) may NOT be made-up! You can call me, email me or leave a message here at school, but you must let me know of an absence beforehand or at worst the day of so that accommodations can be arranged. When you have made arrangements with me regarding missed work, you will only have until the second time the grades are posted following the assignment date. After that point, even if you had made arrangements to be gone, you will receive a zero score.

There will several field trips during the semester. Field trips are an exciting and invaluable way to learn about these amazing organisms. You will be expected to attend at least 2 of the 3 field trips. Please look ahead at the calendar and pay close attention when we discuss tentative dates. We will lock in trips and destinations as soon as possible to give you sufficient time to make arrangements with professors of other classes, with bosses, coaches and spouses as applicable. If it is impossible for you to attend the required number of field trips, then you must meet with me to discuss suitable substitute experiences or activities.

Grades will be made available to you approximately every 2 to 3 weeks throughout the term via the Internet. You must sign a release form giving me permission to post scores on the web. Your identity will be protected by utilizing a code that you determine. Past students have found this feature to be very useful. However, you do not have to have your grades available on the Internet you may obtain your grades in person as available.

Disabilities:
Students who qualify for and desire accommodations in this course due to a disability, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, must follow the NNU Disability Services Policies and Procedures as put forth by the office of Academic Advising. Any student may review a copy of these policies and procedures in the Office of Academic Advising & Testing. Call 208-467-8463 or email (disabilityservices(at)nnu.edu) for further information.

Academic Integrity:
The following is excerpted from the NNU Academic Catalog...
Northwest Nazarene University seeks to establish academic integrity within the University community. Such integrity is fundamental to the principles of the Judeo-Christian tradition and is consistent with the nature and culture of Northwest Nazarene University. This serves to promote the desired outcomes of Christlike Character and Academic Excellence by fostering a spirit of honest
intellectual inquiry. The University has identified as unacceptable practices including, but not limited to:

1. Cheating in its various forms, whether copying another student’s work, allowing one’s own work to be copied, using unauthorized aids on an examination, having someone else take an exam for you (in class or take-home), submitting as one’s own another person’s work, rescheduling an exam relying on a false excuse;

2. Plagiarizing, e.g., presenting as one’s own the words or ideas of another person, including inadequate documentation of sources (electronic, Internet, or print) and excessive dependence on the language of sources even when documented, relying on a similar order of sentences while altering a few words or word order;

3. Submitting the same work for more than one course or assignment without prior written approval from the professor;

4. Using copyrighted material without appropriate citation;

5. Signing a roll sheet for another student who is not in class;

6. Fabricating data: This includes falsifying or manipulating data to achieve desired results, reporting results for experiments not done (dry labbing), or falsifying citations in research reports;

7. Denying other students access to academic information whether in the classroom, library (by hiding books, for example), or computer lab;

8. Destroying, altering, or tampering with another student’s work to impede academic progress;

9. Stealing problem solutions from a professor or computer file;

10. Falsely reporting completion of reading assignments.

Students who either witness or have knowledge of violations are responsible for informing the instructor or appropriate University personnel. At the instructor’s discretion, depending on the nature of the offense, the student’s grade or ability to earn credit for the course may be affected. All students who violate the principles of academic integrity will be reported to the appropriate academic school and the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Violations may also lead to further disciplinary action through the Academic School Dean in cooperation with the office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs. This report shall include a brief description of the offense. In serious cases, or cases that constitute repeat offenses, the student may be suspended or expelled.