

**Avian Biology
BSC 418/518
Syllabus**

Date	Lecture Topic	Reading	Lab Topic
10 Jan	Birds of the World	p. 617-691	
12 Jan	What is a bird?	CH 1	
14 Jan	NO CLASS		LAB: External morphology, systematics, orders
17 Jan	MLK Jr. Holiday – No Class		
19 Jan	Origin & Evolution of Birds	CH 2	
21 Jan	Bird Biogeography		LAB: Skeletal, orders
24 Jan	Systematics	CH 3	
26 Jan	Systematics	CH 3	
28 Jan	Feathers & Molt **lecture to be held during lab	CH 4	LAB: Internal morphology, orders, feathers
31 Jan	Flight and Flightlessness	CH 5	
2 Feb	Flight and Flightlessness	CH 5	
4 Feb	NO CLASS		FIELD: Sewage Lagoons
7 Feb	Mardi Gras Holiday – No Class		
9 Feb	Flight Energetics PAPER TOPIC DUE	CH 5	
11 Feb	NO CLASS		LAB PRACTICAL #1
12 Feb	SATURDAY FIELD TRIP: Winter Birds on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi Departure Time: 0800 Departure Location: Front of JST		
14 Feb	EXAM #1		
16 Feb	Physiology	CH 6	
18 Feb	Physiology	CH 6	LAB: Families
21 Feb	Sensory Systems	CH 8	
22 Feb	LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES		
23 Feb	Sensory Systems	CH 8	
25 Feb	TBA		LAB: Families
28 Feb	Food & Feeding	CH 7	
2 Mar	Foraging Strategies	CH 7	
4 Mar	Annual Cycle PAPER BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE	CH 11	LAB: Families
7 Mar	Annual Cycle	CH 11	

Date	Lecture Topic	Reading	Lab Topic
9 Mar	Migration	CH 12	
11 Mar	NO CLASS		LAB PRACTICAL #2
14-18 Mar		SPRING BREAK	
21 Mar	Migration	CH 12	
23 Mar	Migration	CH 13	
25 Mar	Good Friday – No Class		Good Friday – No Lab
28 Mar	Migration	CH 13	
30 Mar	EXAM # 2		
1 Apr	NO CLASS	CH 15	FIELD: Long Leaf Trace
4 Apr	Orientation & Navigation	CH 16	
6 Apr	Mating Systems	CH 17	
8 Apr	NO CLASS		FIELD: Sewage Lagoons
11 Apr	Mating Systems		
13 Apr	Brood Parasitism, Leks, Cooperative		
15 Apr	Nests, Clutch, Eggs		FIELD: Long Leaf Trace
18 Apr	Parental Care		
20 Apr	Sexual Selection		
	TERM PAPER DUE @ 5pm		
22 Apr	Functions of Coloration	pp. 85 – 91	NO LAB
23 Apr	SATURDAY FIELD TRIP: Bird Migration on Gulf Coast of Mississippi/Alabama Departure Time: TBA (early!) Departure Location: Front of JST		
25 Apr	Vocal Communication	CH 10	
27 Apr	NO CLASS		
29 Apr	Graduate Student Presentations		FIELD: Sewage Lagoons
2 May	Vocal Communication	CH 10	
4 May	Population and Communities		
6 May	Population and Communities		FIELD PRACTICAL
11 May	FINAL EXAM: 11 – 1:30pm		