COURSE APPROVAL DOCUMENT
Southeast Missouri State University

Department: Biology Course No. ZO 515

Title of Course: Field Herpetology Date: 5/2/2018

Please check: X New
☐ Revision

I. Catalog Description (Credit Hours of Course): The biology of amphibians and reptiles through field experiences. (3)

II. Prerequisite(s): BI 283 with grade of C or better.

III. Purposes or Objectives of the Course (optional):

A. Learn the natural history of amphibians and reptiles

B. Learn how to capture different species of amphibians and reptiles

C. Learn how to identify different species of amphibians and reptiles

IV. Course Learning Outcomes (Minimum of 3):

A. Students will be able to identify all the Midwestern ambystomatid salamanders.

B. Students will be able to identify breeding habitats of amphibians and reptiles.

C. Students will be able to demonstrate proper field and data collection techniques.

V. Name of faculty qualified to teach the proposed course:

A. Dr. Dustin Siegel

VI. Course Content or Outline (Indicate number of class hours per unit or section):

A. Introduction to amphibians and reptiles (2 three-hour lecture periods)

B. Identification of amphibians and reptiles (3 three-hour lecture periods)

C. 10 field trips including weekend field trips (45 hours)

Attach the following:

- copy of example class syllabus and course schedule.
- memo from Library Dean assessing available and needed library holdings and resources.
- memo(s) from Department Chairs in affected departments stating possible issues and/or conflicts are resolved.

Signature: James E. Champine Date: 10/17/18
Chair

Signature: Bradley Deken Date: 10/17/18
Dean

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Biology ZO 515

Field Herpetology Special Topics Spring 2017

Instructors:

I. Dr. Dustin Siegel
Office: RH228
Office hours: MWF: 8:00am – 9:00am
Email: dsiegel@semo.edu
Office phone: 573-651-2262

Course time and place

I. Monday, 3:00pm – 5:50pm, MG129…or…otherwise noted in the schedule below

Course description:

I. Field Herpetology (3 – lecture and lab together): The biology of amphibians and reptiles through field experiences.

Techniques to capture amphibians and reptiles in their natural habitat; identifying amphibians and reptiles in their natural habitats; and identifying common habitats that harbor different amphibians and reptiles.

II. Prerequisite(s): BI283 with grade of C or better.

III. Purposes or Objectives of the Course: This course focuses on observing amphibians and reptiles in their natural habitats. To do this, students will learn where different species of amphibians and reptiles live, how to capture different species of amphibians and reptiles, and how to identify different species of amphibians and reptiles. Collectively, students will leave this course with a great understanding of the natural history of amphibians and reptiles.

IV. Student Learning Outcomes (minimum of 3)
A. Students will be able to identify all of the Midwestern ambystomatid salamander species.
B. Students will be able to identify the breeding habitats of different amphibians and reptiles.
C. Students will be able to demonstrate proper field and data collection techniques.

V. Expectations of Students: Students are expected to attend lectures that will serve as a primer for field excursions. Students are expected to attend field trips during the week and at least 50% of weekend field excursions.

VI. Course Outline (include number of periods on each topic):

Students will be required to attend all lecture days during scheduled class time (noted

below). Students will be required to attend ALL field trips during scheduled class time (noted below). By signing up for this course, students should take into account that drive time to and from field sites may add an additional 2 hours to the class period. Students are required to attend two of the one-day Saturday or Sunday trips (note below). Students are required to attend one whole weekend trip (noted below).

A. Lecture and lab (3 hrs of class time that can either be in class or in the field)
   - Week 1: Jan. 16: No class (Martin Luther King Day)
   - Week 2: Jan. 23: What are amphibians and reptiles (scheduled class time)?
   - Week 2: Jan. 30: Where will we find amphibians and reptiles (scheduled time)?
   - Week 3: Feb. 6: Identifying common species (scheduled class time).
   - Week 4: Feb. 13: Identifying common species (scheduled class time).
   - Week 5x1: Feb. 20: Exam over lecture materials and identification of amphibians and reptiles.
   - Week 5x2: Feb. 25: One-day weekend trip to Little Grand Canyon, IL.
   - Week 6: Feb. 27: One-day trip to Pomona, IL (scheduled class time).
   - Week 7: Mar. 6: One-day trip to Maintz Wildlife Refuge, MO (scheduled class time).
   - Week 8: Mar. 13: Spring Break (no class).
   - Week 9: Mar. 20: One-day trip to Maintz Wildlife Refuge, MO (scheduled time). *Bonus one-day weekend trip to Sam A. Baker or Wappapello
   - Week 10: Apr. 1: One-day weekend trip to Mingo Swamp, MO.
   - Week 11: Apr. 3: One-day trip to Snake Road, IL (scheduled time).
   - Week 12: Apr. 7-9: Whole weekend trip to Reelfoot Lake; April 7-9 (leave at noon on the 7th, return home at noon on the 9th)
   - Week 13: Apr. 17: One-day trip to Sand Prairie Conservation Area, MO (scheduled time).
   - Week 14: Apr. 21-23: Whole weekend trip to Mena, AR; April 21-23 (leave at noon on the 21st, return home at noon on the 23rd)
   - Week 15: May 6: One-day weekend trip to Snake Road, IL?
   - Week 16: TBA: Final Exam, 10 May 2017, 2:00pm, MG129

All amphibians and reptiles captured for closer examination will be immediately returned to the site of capture after examination, unless stated otherwise by Dr. Siegel. Any student found trying to keep an amphibian or reptile captured during class, for any reason, will be unenrolled from the course on the next working day following the field trip.

No student is allowed to capture a snake without Dr. Siegel confirming its identification before capture, unless stated otherwise by Dr. Siegel. This is non-negotiable. We don't care if you can identify every species of snake on earth. If caught repeatedly breaking this rule, you will be unenrolled from the course.

On March 27, all students will meet at the normal meeting time to discuss the upcoming whole weekend trips.

VII. Textbook and/or Supplemental Materials:

1. Key to the Herpetofauna of the Continental United States and Canada: Second Edition, Revised and Updated. Powell R, Collins JT, Hooper E. ($19.95 new).

2. Peterson Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern and Central North America. Powell, Conant R, Collins JT ($14.28 new).
3. Rite in the Rain Side-spiral Notebook: http://www.riteintherain.com/side-spiral-notebook-field-4-5-8-x-7

VIII. Basis of Student Evaluation: Field trip participation, detailed field notebook, semester exam, and final exam.

IX. Grading Scale (undergraduate)
90% - 100% = A
80% - 89% = B
70% - 79% = C
60% - 69% = D
Below 60% = F

Grading scale (graduate)
90% - 100% = A
80% - 89% = B
70% - 79% = C
Below 70% = F

The weight of the evaluation criteria may vary according to each instructor and will be communicated at the beginning of the course.

X. Academic Policy Statement:
Students will be expected to abide by the University Policy for Academic Honesty regarding plagiarism and academic honesty. Refer to:
http://www6.semo.edu/judaffairs/code.html

XI. Student with Disabilities Statement:
If a student has a special need addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and requires materials in an alternative format, please notify the instructor at the beginning of the course. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate special needs.

XII. Questions, comments or request regarding this course or program should be taken to one of your instructors (Davenport or Siegel). Unanswered questions or unresolved issues involving this class may be taken to the chair of the Department of Biology (Dr. Jim Champine, 573-651-2170, jchampine@semo.edu).

XIII. For other information from the university on classroom conduct and civility, visit:
http://www.semo.edu/pdf/stuconduct-code-conduct.pdf