COURSE SYLLABUS OUTLINE

Course Title and Number: Ornithology BSC 408/508
Semester and Year: Spring 2015
Days/Time: Lecture: Tuesday and Thursday 8-9:15, room S-207
Lab: Wednesday 8-12:15, room S-207

Instructor:
Name: Dr. Jayme L. Waldron
Office: S-378
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 2:30-3:50, or by appointment.
Office Phone: 696-3361
Email: waldron3@marshall.edu

Course Description: An introduction to avian biology: identification, distribution, migration, and breeding activities of birds.

Credit: 4 hours in biological sciences
Prerequisites: BSC 121 with a grade of *C* or better.

University Policies: By enrolling in this course, you agree to the University Policies listed below. Please read the full text of each policy be going to www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs and clicking on "Marshall University Policies." Or, you can access the policies directly by going to http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/?page_id=802

Academic Dishonesty/ Excused Absence Policy for Undergraduates/ Computing Services Acceptable Use/ Inclement Weather/ Dead Week/ Students with Disabilities/ Academic Forgiveness/ Academic Probation and Suspension/ Academic Rights and Responsibilities of Students/ Affirmative Action/ Sexual Harassment

Text Information:
Required Text/Audio:
Gill (2007). Ornithology
Pick one of the following two field guides:
Peterson (2010). Birds of Eastern and Central North America
Sibley (2003). Sibley Field guide to birds of eastern North America
CDs: Stokes (2010) Stokes field guide to bird songs: Eastern Region
Recommended text:
Proctor (1993). Manual of Ornithology

***Computer Requirements:** Microsoft Word and internet

Desired Learner Outcomes/Objectives:
(1) Understand basic concepts of avian ecology and conservation.
(2) Learn to recognize important avian habitats in West Virginia.
(3) Acquire skills necessary for identifying avian species.
(4) Understand avian natural history.
(5) Be familiar with current threats to habitats and avian species of concern.

Expected-learning-outcomes-rubric: how learning outcomes will be practiced and assessed.

Student Learning Outcomes	How students will practice each outcome	How student achievement of each outcome will be assessed
Understand basic concepts of avian ecology and conservation	Reading assignments, homework, and classroom discussions Regular attendance to lecture and laboratory	1) Effective classroom discourse will depend on completion of reading assignments. Students must effectively relate reading assignments in classroom discussions. Students will be assessed based on their a) willingness to participate (e.g., ask questions and answer questions), and b) their ability to incorporate reading material into classroom discussions. 2) Student attendance. 3) I will evaluate homework using criteria outlined handouts.
Learn to recognize important avian habitats in West Virginia	Reading assignments Classroom discussion Lecture and Laboratory Exams	1) Students will be assessed based on their willingness to participate (e.g., ask questions and answer questions) in discussions pertaining to avian habitats 3) Students will be evaluated based on their ability to answer lecture and laboratory exam questions about avian habitats in West Virginia.
Acquire skills necessary for identifying avian species	Homework assignments will give students exposure to key identifying characters (using keys and research), and this information will be used in the development of species accounts of non-North American birds. Lecture and laboratory exams	1) I will evaluate the students' ability to complete homework assignments correctly and on time. 2) I will evaluate students' ability to work together in the development of species accounts. 3) I will evaluate the accuracy of lecture and laboratory exam questions pertaining to avian identification.
Understand avian natural history	Lecture and Laboratory Exams	1) I will evaluate student performance based on accuracy of answers to lecture and laboratory exam questions about avian life history.
Be familiar with current threats to habitats and avian species of concern	Classroom discussion Homework Lecture Exams	1) Students will be assessed based on their knowledge and insight during classroom discussions about this concept. 2) Lecture exams will assess students' ability to articulate, in writing, current threats to avian habitats and diversity.

Home Work

Read the assigned chapters and papers prior to the lecture. I will assign homework periodically throughout the semester. When assignments are not turned in on time, a letter grade will be deducted for every day the assignment is late.

Graduate students will be required to write a species account for a non-North American avian species using information gathered by everyone enrolled in this class. The species account will cover all aspects

of species life history (e.g., longevity and habitat) and morphology. Results should be submitted in a scientific manuscript format. Due date is **April 16, 2015**.

Grading Policy: Grading scale will be as follows:
90-100% = A 80-89% = B 70-79% = C 60-69% = D ≤ 59% = F

Lecture Exam 1	**12%**
Lecture Exam 2	**12%**
Lecture Exam 3	**12%**
Lab Exam 1	**12%**
Lab Exam 2	**12%**
Final Lecture Exam	**12%**
Final Lab Exam	**12%**
Homework/Paper	**10%**
Participation/Discussion	**6%**

Lecture and Laboratory Exams
There will be three lecture exams and three laboratory exams that will not be cumulative. Exam dates on the syllabus may change, but exams will be announced at least one week in advance. Lecture exams will include questions from lectures AND reading assignments. Lecture exams will be matching, short answer, and essay. Laboratory exams will be short answer or matching. IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO BRING A BLACK OR BLUE INK PEN OR A PENCIL TO THE EXAMS. **All exams are expected to be taken as scheduled**. Exams will not be curved. Make-up exams will not be given without an excuse from the university.

Final Exam
The final exam will include lecture material and will be cumulative.

Field Trips: Many labs will be held in the field, and thus field trips are not optional. All field excursions will be scheduled as weather permits.

Participation: Attendance is MANDATORY. You will have to sign-in during every class period. Please consult the university policy on excessive absences (see link at beginning of syllabus). You can miss three classes (i.e., 10% of lectures). After the third absence, 3% will be deducted from your final grade for EVERY missed class.

Other Requirements: It is very important to keep good field notes. For each lab session and field trip, you should make an entry in your field notebook (preferably waterproof; all entries must be written in pencil). For laboratory sessions, you should record the date and notes that will help you with identification. During field trips, record date, time of day, location, habitat, species of bird, and residence status. **ALL FIELD NOTE BOOKS MUST BE GIVEN TO DR. WALDRON BY May 4!**

Cell phones/texting: Mobile phones are not permitted in class. You will be dismissed from class if you are caught texting or if your phone rings. You will be given an absence for the day.

Laptops/ipads/notebooks/etc: Computers cannot be used during class. Notes must be taken using paper and writing utensils.

COURSE OUTLINE/DAILY/WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

Week (Dates)	Topic	Reading
Week 1 (Jan 13-15)	Lecture: Course Introduction; Introduction to Aves and avian diversity Lab: Introduction to laboratory procedures; Topography	Gill Ch. 1
Week 2 (Jan 20-22)	Lecture: Avian evolution & systematics Lab: Topography; non-songbirds Note: "W" withdrawal period begins	Gill Ch. 2 & 3
Week 3 (Jan 27-29)	Lecture: systematics; Feathers Lab: Non-songbirds	Gill Ch. 3 & 4
Week 4 (Feb 3-5)	Lecture: Feathers & Flight Lab: **Exam (Topography & non-songbirds)**	Gill Ch. 4 & 5
Week 5 (Feb 10-12)	Lecture: **Exam 1** Lab: songbirds	
Week 6 (Feb 17-19)	Avian physiology & senses Lab: songbirds	Gill Ch. 6-7
Week 7 (Feb 24-26)	Lecture: Avian senses & vocalizations Lab: songbirds	Gill Ch. 7-8
Week 8 (Mar 3-5)	Lecture: Annual cycles, migration, navigation Lab: songbirds Note: mid-term March 3	Gill Ch. 9-10
Week 9 (Mar 10-12)	Lecture: **Exam 2** Lab: songbirds	
Week 10 (Mar 17-19)	Spring Break	
Week 11 (Mar 24-26)	Lecture: Behavior & Mate Choice Lab: **Exam (songbirds)** Note: Mar 27 last day to drop class	Gill Ch. 11-12
Week 12 (Mar 31-Apr 2)	Lecture: Mate Choice & breeding systems Lab: Bird Walk	Gill Ch. 12-13
Week 13 (Apr 7-9)	Lecture: Reproduction & nesting Lab: Bird Walk	Gill Ch. 14-15
Week 14 (Apr 14-16)	Lecture: **Exam 3** Lab: Bird walk **Note: Graduate student species accounts due April 16**	
Week 15 (Apr 21-23)	Lecture: Parents & Offspring Lab: Bird Walk	Gill Ch. 16-17
Week 16 (Apr 28-30)	Lecture: Population dynamics, species, communities Lab: **Final Exam (conducted in field)** Note: Dead week	Gill Ch. 18-20
FINAL EXAM	**(Thursday May 7): Time: 8:00-10:00** **Note: Final Exam will include be cumulative.**	