

Syllabus for Experimental Zoology
Academic Year 2017-18
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Course Description

In this course I hope to cultivate a love of God and his creation by providing the opportunity for each student to encounter and make observations of the major groups of animals in this creation, to form ideas based on those observations, to compare and contrast those ideas with the ideas of masters, and finally to share their ideas with others both inside and outside the class.

Course Goals

It is my desire that each student finish the year with an increased scientific vocabulary and the ability to use it, an increased understanding of the natural world, an increased ability to think creatively and scientifically, and an increased knowledge of the relationship between General Revelation and Special Revelation.

Texts

Leopold, Aldo: A Sand County Almanac

Class Requirements

Students will need a composition book and a writing implement of their choice. Students must also have a spiral bound sketch notebook for their lab work. Though I prefer pencils, students are free to use either pencils or black pens for their lab sketches.

Grading Rubric

Notebooks: There are three types of assignments that will go into the lab notebooks; Dissections, Anatomical Studies, and the "What is it?". These are worth on average 50pts, 30pts, and 20pts respectively. Due dates are given when lab is assigned.

Tests: There will be two tests per quarter each worth 100 points. In addition to this there will be a 50-point lab practicum encompassing the specimens dissected during each unit. For some units the practicum and test are combined.

Papers: A natural history paper is assigned each semester and is due at the end of each respectively. These are worth 170 points.

Mid-Term and Final: The mid-Term is a cumulative invertebrate test administered during exam week. It is worth 100 points. There is no Final exam for seniors. Any senior finishing the spring semester with an average of 90 or above is exempt from the 4th quarter mammal test.

Late Work

Late work is subject to an 11% per day penalty. Work that is turned in late due to an absence has a two day grace period before a penalty is assessed.

Absences

Students who are absent are responsible for obtaining from a classmate the notes and assignments they missed. Once they have reviewed these they may come to me for clarification if necessary.

Tutoring/Help

I will be available during the scheduled tutorial times or, often, before school.

Honor Code

Though the nature of the inquiry based education in this class is one of group labs and discussions, it is expected that when each student hands in work with their name on it they can confidently say that the work is theirs. True education occurs when a student engages the material, striving for mastery and not just a good grade.

Field Trips

We will have one major field trip to Oak Mountain State Park in the Spring of the year.

Outline for the Year

Week #	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
W1	Intro Zoology	Cnidarians	Fish	Birds
W2	Invert Overview	Cnidarians	Fish	Birds
W3	Invert Overview	Cnidarians	Fish	Birds
W4	Arthropoda	Cnidarians	Amphibians	Birds
W5	Arthropoda	Echinodermata	Amphibians	Mammals
W6	Arthropoda	Echinodermata	Amphibians	Mammals
W7	Arthropoda	Echinodermata	Reptiles	Mammals
W8	Arthropoda	Echinodermata	Reptiles	Mammals
W9	Arthropoda		Reptiles	Mammals

Important Dates

First Quarter Tests	8/31	10/5
Second Quarter Tests	11/2	12/7
Invert Nat Hist Paper	TBA	
Third Quarter Tests	2/1	3/1
Fourth Quarter Tests	4/5	5/10 (If necessary)
Vert Nat Hist Paper	TBA	