

EEB 4260: Margaret Rubega

Introduction to Course Goals, structure and guidelines

Class Business

- **Syllabus** handout; also posted on the class web page, where it is subject to change – **check it weekly**.
- **Text books.** Gill's "Ornithology" is required. Other supplemental books are available, but optional.
- **Office hours.** 10-10:50 on Wednesdays or by appointment.
- **Email policy:** the subject line in your emails to us **MUST** contain the phrase "EEB 4260". Any email without that phrase, and especially with a blank subject line, will be **DELETED** without being read. If you are emailing me to set up an appointment, the email should say: (a) what you want to discuss and (b) times *you* are available to meet.
- **Web site.** For each lecture I will aim to post an outline on the web ahead of time. I recommend **STRONGLY** that you print them out and take notes right on top of them in class, and during your reading. **These outlines are not a substitute for coming to class**, and you should not expect them to include everything covered in class (e.g., none of the graphics will be in the web notes). In exams, you will be expected to know about all the things I talked about, not just the information in the web notes.

Reading/Assignment for Next Class:

Required. Gill: pgs. xxi – xxvi and Chapter 1.
Read Course Guidelines; print out, sign, and turn in Course Guidelines Form

Optional. Procter & Lynch: Pages 1-6.

1. Course Goals, structure and guidelines.

A) GOALS:

- i) Mastery of what is already known about birds – factual information

- ii) Understanding of the conceptual framework (evolutionary, ecological) within which we formulate questions and interpret what is observable about birds

- iii) The ability to apply your factual knowledge and conceptual understanding outside the classroom

B) STRUCTURE, GRADING:

- i) Lectures: a way for me to communicate factual and conceptual information to you. These may seem like a one-way form of communication, but your engagement (attention, questions, participation in discussion) influences what I say and how I say it.

- ii) Minute papers: ungraded; a way for us to communicate about what you know/understand/are thinking; allow me to change the course of lectures if what I'm doing is not effective.

iii) Short quizzes: graded; practice for multiple choice format I use on larger tests; assess your mastery of factual material and your understanding of conceptual material.

iv) Assignments: graded, and require you to do background work BEFORE COMING TO CLASS. Designed to help cement your understanding of the material + encourage what you ought to do anyway.

v) Exams: graded; assess your mastery of factual material, and your understanding of concepts.

vi) Twitter assignment: ungraded, except for completeness; used to reinforce course material outside of lecture; assess your ability to apply what you are learning in the real world. Also: fun!

C) GUIDELINES: Detailed description is in the Course Guidelines document (read, sign and turn in the Guidelines Form by second lecture) but key points are:

i) Attendance: You are not required to attend lecture; I am not responsible for recreating what happened in lecture if you miss it. **If you miss a class, you are responsible for getting notes from a classmate: I will not re-lecture to you one-on-one later.**

ii) Grading

- Grades will **not** be curved
- There are no make-ups
- There are no opportunities for “extra credit”
- You can miss up to two minute papers/quizzes/assignments without penalty (or drop your lowest two) and without explanation to us.
- If you have a legitimate excuse to miss the midterm exam, AND DOCUMENTATION to prove it, your grade will be pro-rated on the basis of the exam you did take.

iii) Use of electronics in the classroom: **none allowed, except** for the use of laptops for note-taking, *only*. All other uses (surfing the internet, email, texting, IM, listening to music, watching video, et Infiniti) are distracting, disruptive of our work in the classroom, and disrespectful of the instructor and those nearby. **Turn your phone off.**