

Herpetology (Biology 489), University of Idaho, Fall 2012 Syllabus

- Lecture:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday
1:30-2:20 pm
Life Sciences 163
- Lab:** Tuesday (Section 1) or Thursday (Section 2)
12:30-3:20 pm
Life Sciences 341
- Instructor:** Dr. Luke Harmon
lukeh@uidaho.edu
Office: LSS 347
Office hours: 2:30-3:30 am Mondays or by appointment
- Teaching assistant:** Denim Jochimsen
denimj@vandals.uidaho.edu

Textbooks:

- Vitt, L. J. and J. P. Caldwell. 2009. Herpetology. 3rd edition. Elsevier.
Stebbin, R. C. 2003. A Field guide to Western Reptiles and Amphibians, 3rd edition.
Houghton Mifflin.

Additional *required* reading will be handed out in class and available on blackboard.

Important dates:

- Exam I 1:30 PM, September 19
Exam II 1:30 PM, November 2
Presentations Week of November 12

Internet resources:

Course website: will be available through BBLearn (<http://bblearn.uidaho.edu/>). You will be able to access the page by logging into your account there. If you can't access the class, please let me know by email. This page has a discussion forum, my lecture notes as pdf files, and posted assignments and quizzes. You will also be able to access your course grades.

Tree of life (<http://tolweb.org/tree/>) summarizes the evolutionary relationships among living things, and includes a large section on amphibians and reptiles.

AmphibiaWeb (<http://amphibiaweb.org/>) and *Amphibian Species of the World* (<http://research.amnh.org/herpetology/amphibia/index.php>) have species accounts for all known species of amphibians. *The Reptile Database* (<http://www.reptiliaweb.org/>) is the equivalent for reptiles.

Idaho-specific information can be found at the *Digital Atlas of Idaho* (<http://imnh.isu.edu/digitalatlas/>).

On my lab website (*Harmon Lab*, <http://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/~lukeh/>), you can find some information about my research on island lizards, and links to other herpetology research labs.

Course objectives:

This course has two goals. First, I want to introduce you to the diversity of reptiles and amphibians around the world, and their evolutionary history. Second, I believe that classes like this introduce students to integrative biology. This is an approach to doing science where one tries to integrate as much information as possible to understand an organism and its relationship to the environment. This requires the combination of scientific information from evolution, ecology, physiology, behavior, genetics, and other fields; we will try to weave all of these things together to understand the interactions between species and their natural environment.

Grading:

| Assignment | % of grade | Due |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Herp book/movie review | 5% | Dec. 3 |
| Herps of Idaho Presentation/Quiz | 10% | TBD |
| Group research proposal | 10% | Nov. 12 |
| Lab reports | 25% | Beginning of lab |
| Exam I | 15% | Sept. 19 |
| Exam II | 15% | Nov. 2 |
| <u>Final exam</u> | <u>20%</u> | <u>TBD</u> |
| Total | 100% | |

Plagiarism:

Your exams are expected to reflect your own work, and plagiarism will not be tolerated. There can be absolutely no copying during exams. On some assignments, you can work as a group, but it is not OK to copy another student's work and turn it in as your own.

Make-up Policy:

I will schedule a make-up for the midterm exam and class presentations only if notified in advance. University policy prohibits students from taking the final exam at any time other than the regularly scheduled time.

Late assignments:

See schedules for due dates. Ten percent will be deducted for every day late.

Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have documented temporary or permanent disabilities. Contact Disability Support Services located in the Idaho Commons Building, Room 306; 885-6307; email: dss@uidaho.edu; www.access.uidaho.edu