Herpetology (Biology 489), University of Idaho, Fall 2021
Class website: bblearn
Syllabus

Lecture: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
1:30-2:20 pm
LSS 163 (also broadcast on zoom: https://uidaho.zoom.us/j/99525176985)

Lab: Thursdays
12:30-3:20 pm
Life Sciences 341
(not broadcast on zoom)

Instructor: Dr. Luke Harmon
lukeh@uidaho.edu
Office: LSS 347
Office hours: after class, or make an appointment

Textbooks:

Note that the focus of the class is on the literature rather than on textbooks.

Stebbins, R. C, and coauthors. A Field guide to Western Reptiles and Amphibians. You can get either the third or the fourth edition; the fourth is newer, but has been critiqued by many herpetologists for quite a few flaws.

It is helpful, but not required, to have a herpetology textbook, either: Herpetology by Vitt and Caldwell, 4th Edition, 2013
Or

Additional required reading will be available on the class website.

Important dates:
Exam I 1:30 PM, October 22
Exam II To be determined
Presentations December 2 (during LAB!)

Internet resources:

Course website: bblearn. The class page has lecture notes, recorded lectures, assignments, and old exams.
Tree of life (http://tolweb.org/tree/) summarizes the evolutionary relationships among living things, and includes a large section on amphibians and reptiles. A more up-to-date view can be seen using OneZoom (http://www.onezoom.org/tetrapods.htm).

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, lukejharmon.github.io), you can find some information about my research.

Course objectives:
This course has three 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. Finally, I hope this class provides you an entry point into the scientific literature of herpetology. At this point in your education it is time to stop reading about science, and time to start reading scientific research!

Grading:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>% of grade</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class assignments</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group research proposal</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Dec. 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lab</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>See Lab Schedule</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam I</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Oct. 22</td>
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<td>Exam II</td>
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<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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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 exams 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 schedule above and lab schedule for assignment due dates. Ten percent will be deducted for every day late.
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.

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS STATEMENT:
Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have documented temporary or permanent disabilities. All accommodations must be approved through Disability Support Services, located in the Idaho Commons Building, Room 306, in order to notify your instructor(s) as soon as possible regarding accommodation(s) needed for the course. Contact DSS at 208-885-6307, email dss@uidaho.edu or go to www.uidaho.edu/dss.

Healthy Vandals Policies
It is a longstanding tradition that Vandals take care of Vandals, and we all do our best to look out for the Vandal Family. These simple precautions go a long way in reducing the impact of coronavirus on our campuses and in our communities. With everyone engaging in these small actions, we can continue to participate in our vibrant campus culture where we are able to learn, live, and grow. Please bookmark the University of Idaho Covid-19 webpage and visit it often for the most up-to-date information about the U of I’s response to Covid-19.
• Masks are required, effective immediately, in all university buildings, regardless of vaccination status. Faculty may wear a face shield to lead classes and must maintain 6 feet of distance while wearing the shield. These requirements will be reviewed on a periodic basis and are subject to change.
• All classes are offered in the modality listed in the catalog.
• All Vandals are highly encouraged to be vaccinated.
• COVID-19 tests are not required to attend class in person.

Additionally, faculty and students must follow the Healthy Vandal Pledge:

1. Daily Symptom Monitoring and In-Person Class Attendance. Evaluate your own health status before attending in-person classes and refrain from attending class in-person if you are ill, if you are experiencing any of the known symptoms of coronavirus, or if you have tested positive for COVID-19 or have been potentially exposed to someone with COVID-19.
• Stay home if you experience any symptoms related to COVID 19 and that are not attributed to a non-infectious health condition regardless of how mild.
• Contact your medical provider or local Idaho Public Health District for assessment of symptoms and possible COVID19 testing. Positive COVID 19 tests should be submitted
via a VandalCare Report in order to make arrangements that involve classroom absences due to illness, and/or quarantine or isolation requirements directed by a medical provider.

2. Face Masks. All faculty, staff, students and visitors across all U of I locations must use face masks whenever indoors at any U of I buildings. You are required to wear a face mask over your nose and mouth indoors at all times. a. If you have a medical condition that affects your ability to comply with the face covering policy, please contact the Center for Disability Access and Resources (CDAR) to request a reasonable accommodation. b. Failure to wear a face covering means you will be required to leave the classroom. If a disruption to the learning experience occurs due to repeated offence and/or egregious behavior, it will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for potential code violation.