

Date: February 2006

- I. Course Name:** Ornithology
Course Prefix and Number: CON 211 / BIO 225
Credit Hours and Contact Hours: 4 credit hours - 5 contact hours
Catalog Description:

The study of birds with special emphasis on anatomy, physiology, life histories and identification of birds common to Western New York. Lecture and laboratory work supplemented by several field trips, including early morning bird observations. Trips to selected local birding areas are required. (Also listed as BIO 225.) Prerequisite: BIO 121, 122 or permission of instructor.

II. Course Outcomes and Objectives

Learning Outcomes:

The objectives of this course are to provide students with knowledge to identify birds and understand their behavior and relationships in their natural habitats. This is accomplished through lecture, laboratory class discussion, field trips and student research projects. The basic principles of anatomical features as well as calls and behaviors are stressed.

Relationship to Academic Programs and Curriculum:

This course is a Conservation or Science elective for students in the A.A.S. Natural Resources Conservation, A.A.S. Natural Resources Conservation: Law Enforcement and A.S. Environmental Studies Degree Programs. It may also be taken as a Science elective for students enrolled in other degree programs.

College Competencies Addressed by the Course:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> writing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ethics / values
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> oral communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> citizenship
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> reading	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> global concerns
<input type="checkbox"/> mathematics	<input type="checkbox"/> information resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> problem solving	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> professional competency
<input type="checkbox"/> computer literacy	

III. Methods of Instruction

Types of course materials:

Students will purchase an Ornithology text and a field guide to birds. The students will keep a checklist of all birds observed during the class which will be provided by the instructor. During field exercises the Conservation Department will provide binoculars and spotting scopes for student use.

Methods of Instruction:

This course is laboratory and field experience based; however, class lecture and discussion help students understand the utilization of identification skills and techniques. Applicable videos are also incorporated into the course.

Assessment Measures:

Each student's understanding of the course material will be assessed by their participation in class discussions, their performance on a bird related research project, through weekly bird identification quizzes and two exams.

Methods of Evaluation:

- Midterm Exam
- Final Exam
- Research Project
- Bird Identification Quizzes
- Participation

IV. General Outline of Topics Covered

- History of Ornithology
- General Birding Skills
- Classification of Birds
- Anatomy & Physiology
- Feathers & Flight
- Bird Behavior
- Migration
- Waterfowl
- Raptors
- Song Birds
- Mist Netting and Bird Banding