SYLLABUS 2015, BIOLOGY 584

SYLLABUS FOR BIOLOGICAL STUDIES IN ZOOS & AQUARIA (Zool. 584) spring 2015

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http://www.wiu.edu/graduate_studies/catalog/post_bacc_certificates/zooaquastudies.php

http://www.wiu.edu/cas/biological_sciences/faculty/thomas.php

BEST COMMUNICATION:
Best to E-mail Dr. T with questions or to setup an appointment to meet in my office or via skype.

LECTURE SCHEDULE:
Quad Cities Section &: Friday Lecture 11:30-4:30, room 2204, River front Campus in Moline

Chicago Section: Friday Lecture 11:30-4:30 Electronic Technology Classroom at the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago

FIELD TRIPS: Both the Quad Cities and Chicago sections combine for the on site tours of research at three facilities:

-Shedd Aquarium on Friday xxx; meet at ETC classroom
-Niabi Zoo in Coal Valley, IL on Friday 17 April, meet in classroom at Discovery Education Center of Niabi Zoo
-Brookfield Zoo on Friday 1 May, meet outside the Seven Seas Pavilion.

All field trips are from 11:30-4:30.

Students must provide their own transportation to field trips.

For Quad Cities students trip to the Shedd Aquarium, either carpool or take Amtrak Illinois Zephyr from Princeton IL to Union Station in Chicago. Parking in Chicago is about $25.
For Brookfield Zoo trip, you can either carpool or take Illinois Zephyr Amtrak train from Princeton, IL to LaGrange station; then take a cab to and from the zoo (about $13 each way).

Book Amtrak tickets early, last year the train was full on one of our field trip days. 1-800-USA-RAIL or can book online at Amtrak.com

No public transportation is available to Niabi Zoo; all students must drive or carpool.

Field Trip Agendas:
XXX, Shedd Aquarium, Chicago, IL
11:15 Meet in Electronic Technology Classroom. Do not pay admission, parking at meters along Solidarity Drive between Field Museum and Planetarium, at Field Museum parking lot, or Soldier Field parking lot. Students must pay for parking.

If you take Amtrak (Illinois Zephyr arrives at Union Station Chicago 10:30, leaves 5:55, stops at Macomb, Galesburg, Kewanee, Princeton, Mendota, LaGrange). Taxi is about $14 each way from Union Station to Shedd Aquarium.

Schedule
11:30-12:00 Welcome and Learning Group talk—Heather or other Learning Staff
12:00-1:00 Chuck Knapp and Shedd Research
1:00-2:00 Allen LaPointe and Water Quality Lab
2:00-2:45 Animal Hospital Tour
2:45-3:00 Restroom break and travel time
3:00-4:00 Marine Mammals Behind the Scenes Tour
4:00-4:30 Animal Behavior with Laura Monaco-Torelli (Dr. Thomas’s Guest)
4:30 End

17 April outline of Niabi Zoo visit
Meet at the Discovery Center (next to ticket booth); do not pay admission. Parking is free.
11:30-Behind the scenes tour and speak to class about zoo keeping, especially as the lead ~ Jessica Potter, lead keeper and trainer
Break for lunch (food vendors available at the zoo)
2:00-Jeanette Thomas discussion of research at Niabi Zoo (elephant, colobus, gibbon, giraffe, red wolf)
3:00 Three behavioral exercises in zoo

1 May, Brookfield Zoo, Brookfield, IL.
If you drive you will need to pay for parking (about $10).

If you take Amtrak, the Illinois Zephyr arrives at LaGrange at 10:20, and returns from LaGrange at 6:15 pm. You will need to call a cab and arrange transportation to and from the zoo/LaGrange Amtrak station. (LaGrange Livery or Brookfield Taxi)

Do not pay admission. Check in with visitor services and tell them you are with a WIU class and Rita Stacey is the contact. Zoo opens at 10:00 so you should have some time to look around before class.

Meet outside at the Seven Seas Dolphin Pavilion at 11:15

11:30 Dolphin show at 7-Seas

11:50 – 12:20 marine mammal management – Dolphin Stadium – Rita Stacey

12:30 – 1:00 Education Talk – Lanis Petrik (CCL Classroom)

1:00 – 1:30 Animal Welfare Research – Lance Miller (CCL Classroom)

Short break for lunch and walk to Rice Center

2:00 – 3:00 Lab tours (Group is split in half) for Endocrine Lab and Hospital Lab – Jocelyn Bryant & Joanna Ammer

3:00 – 3:45 Tim Sullivan - Behavioral Enrichment and Training – Animal Hospital Conference Room -

3:45 – 4:30 Talk by Jenn Watts on Zoo Nutrition. Animal Hospital Conference Room


**REQUIRED SOFTWARE:** Zoo Tycoon 2. By Microsoft. There are several versions of this program, if you have an older version you can use it, but the newer versions have more features and many of the bugs are worked out. You can purchase at Amazon.com (may even have a used copy) or Best Buy or Wal-Mart. Make sure the version matches the operating system for your computer!!!

Also, available on Xbox 360 and Xbox One, the fully reimagined “Zoo Tycoon” enables players to create their own unique zoo layouts, adopt and interact with animals, and even manage their zoo with up to three friends online using Xbox Live.

Points:  
- Power Point Presentation on Book Chapter 100 points  
- Preparation of Resume, due 3 April 50 points  
- Preparation of Letter of Recommendation, due 10 April 50 points  
- Three behavioral exercises (collect data during class 17 April; write up due 24 April) 50 points  
- Science News articles (20@ X 2, see schedule) 20 points  
- Design a Zoo & Power Point Presentation (8 May) 100 points  
- Design a Zoo Budget (due 15 May or earlier) 100 points  
Total 470 points

Note: no class on 15 May, but I give you an extra week to submit your zoo budget; please use the budget Excel file and email to me.

If you need to complete this course this semester, let me know, we can work something out, otherwise you will receive an incomplete until your zoo budget is turned in, graded and change of grade filed.

Grading:  
100-90% A  
89-80% B  
79-70% C  
69-60% D  
59%-below F  

OBJECTIVES:  
This course surveys the types of biological studies suited to animals in a zoo or oceanarium setting. These environments provide the capabilities for long-term monitoring of individual animals of known age, genetic relatedness, and social environments. Biological studies in these settings typically concentrate on ways of better maintaining animals and/or ways of conserving their wild conspecifics. Both applied and basic research is conducted in these environments. Topics such as genetics, nutrition, behavior, reproduction, ontogeny, sensory abilities, comparative anatomy & physiology, biomedical use, and management will be discussed. The course emphasizes current methods or techniques used in the zoo or oceanarium setting. The course concentrates on vertebrates and current research at local zoo or oceanarium facilities. Students critique a research paper, conduct a time budget, design a dwelling, develop an enrichment object, and conduct behavioral exercises.

In accordance with University policy and the Americans with Disabilities Act, academic accommodations may be made for any student who notifies the instructor of the need for an accommodation. It is imperative that you take the initiative to bring such needs to the instructor’s attention, as he/she is not legally permitted to inquire about such particular needs of students. Students who may require special assistance in
emergency evacuations should contact the instructor as to the most appropriate procedures to follow in such an emergency. Contact Disability Support Services at 309-298-2512 for additional services.

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
Western Illinois University

Definition of Plagiarism

The faculty of the Department of Biological Sciences ascribes to a definition of plagiarism as expressed by V. E. McMillan in Writing Papers in the Biological Sciences (Bedford/St.Martin’s Press, New York, pg 16)

   “Plagiarism is the theft of someone else’s words, work, or ideas. It includes such acts as (1) turning in a friend’s paper and saying it is yours; (2) using another person’s data or ideas without acknowledgement; (3) copying an author’s exact words and putting them in your paper without quotation marks; and (4) using wording that is very similar to that of the original source but passing it off as entirely your own even while acknowledging the source.”

This includes information in textbooks or laboratory manuals, honors and master’s theses, all writing assignments, and images. The faculty of the Department attempt to monitor student-writing assignments (essay exams, papers, laboratory reports, and other writing assignments or exercises) for incidence of plagiarism. If plagiarism is found, the faculty will discuss the situation with the student and indicate to the student the penalty for this academic dishonesty. Potential penalties include those cited in the academic dishonesty section of the WIU web page, http://www.wiu.edu/policies/ugdishst.shtm/

The Copyright Act allows films to be screened in face-to-face teaching situations, defined by specific criteria. To be eligible for the teaching exemption, the screening is limited to students who are enrolled in a class in which the film is a part of systematic mediated instructional activities, the instructor is present, and the screening is an integral part of the classroom session. Playing films for the department, for honors students, or as a “film series” or lecture series does not qualify for the teaching exemption, but requires a Public Performance License.

ATTITUDE

“The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts.
It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do.
It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill.
It will make or break a company, relationship, or home.
The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we embrace for that day.
We cannot change our past.
We cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way.
We cannot change the inevitable.
The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude.
I am convinced that life is 10% of what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you, we are in charge of our Attitudes.”
By Charles Swindoll

HOW TO AVOID PROCRASTINATION

1. Break down the task into very small chunks. It’s easier not to procrastinate when you have manageable tasks.
2. Set a time to finish one chunk. It’s helpful to think about what would prevent you from getting this task done and to strategize about how to avoid that. For example, if you’re likely to talk on the phone, unplug the phone or forward calls to your voice mail. If you’re too distracted at your house, go to the library.
3. Have some accountability around finishing the job. Tell someone your plans.
4. Have some small rewards for yourself. Find something you’re willing to give yourself if you succeed-and willing to go without if you don’t succeed.
5. If you do well, go on to the next chunk. If you’re not successful, analyze what went wrong and figure out what you could do differently the next time. And don’t give up or feel bad. “Sometimes failures can be very helpful if people are willing to look at what went wrong and learn from the Experience”. By Hirsch, University of Minnesota.