Herpetology (BZ329) Spring, 2010

What and when
This course is herpetology, the study of the vertebrate groups including amphibians and reptiles.

Lecture location: Anatomy/Zoology E112
Lecture time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11-11:50 am
Lab times:
  Section 1 (L01): Thursday 2-3:40 pm, Anatomy/Zoology E202
  Section 2 (L02): Thursday 4-5:40 pm, Anatomy/Zoology E202

Who
Instructor: Rob Schorr
  240 General Services Building
  phone: 491-4273, email: robert.schorr@colostate.edu
  Office Hours: Thursdays 1-2 pm or by appointment

TA: Becky Chong
  E440 Anatomy/Zoology
  e-mail: becky.chong@colostate.edu
  Office Hours: Tuesdays 2-3pm or by appointment

Equipment you’ll need
Textbooks:
  Western Reptiles and Amphibians, 3rd Edition by R.C. Stebbins.

RamCT:
Handouts or supplementary readings (when applicable) will be posted on RamCT. I provide incomplete copies of my lecture notes that students have to populate. If you miss a class (excused or not) you will have to work with classmates to get those notes. I WILL NOT PROVIDE COMPLETE COPIES OF THE LECTURE NOTES – UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE. Students are responsible for coming to class and taking detailed notes.

iClickers: I use iClickers to test students comprehension and to ensure students are reviewing their notes regularly.

Your own mental capacity ("Work stupid brain!"):
Attend class and take careful notes. Keep up with the assigned reading. Review notes regularly. Ask questions. Have passion for the subject matter.

Your tasks this semester
Midterms and Final Exams:
Three in-class exams on lecture material: (100 points each; 30% of course)
Cumulative Final Exam on lecture material: (250 points; 25% of course)
In class lecture quizzes: (~50 points; 5% of course)
Two lab practical exams: (each will be 150 points; 30% of course)
Four lab Quizzes: (each will be 25 points; 10% of course)
Total course points = ~1,000. There is no extra credit in this course.

Final Exam Date and Time: Thursday, May 13, 1:30 – 3:30 pm; Anatomy/Zoology E112
**Final grade** will be based on your total score. 90% - 100% = A, 80% - 89% = B, 70% - 79% = C, 60% - 69% = D, 0 – 59% = F. “+” for -7 to -9%, “-” for -0 to -2%. No C-, D+, or D- given.

**Policies**

**Absence Policy:**
If you must miss a lecture or lab due to illness or other such circumstances, obtain lecture notes from your fellow classmates. After reviewing these notes and any course material posted on RamCT, please be sure to discuss the material with your classmates, TA, and me during office hours. I will not provide my lecture notes in the event of a missed lecture.

If you must miss a quiz or exam due to illness, family emergency, or a University-sponsored event, a written verification (such as a doctor’s note, newspaper obituary, or letter from a coach, in advance when circumstances allow) must be provided.

**Attendance and Participation:**
You are expected to attend all classes, but I will not always take roll. As adults I leave it in your responsible hands to get notes and do the required reading. **Your participation in class may benefit you when I assign grades.** Those students who have actively contributed in class will find that such participation may teeter their grade higher.

**Exam grading policy:**
Once I have returned an exam you have until the next class period to identify any arithmetic errors on my part and I will correct them. If you did not detect arithmetic errors, but want question(s) re-graded, you must submit the exam with a written explanation of your arguments within two class periods after it was returned in class. Beware! If you submit an exam for re-grading I will re-grade the entire exam to ensure no other mistakes were made (this may or may not benefit you).

**Academic Dishonesty and Disruptive Behaviors:**
Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. If found cheating, you will receive a failing grade. Distractive behaviors such as talking to neighbors, reading newspapers, regularly coming to class late (unless prior authorization has been given), or leaving class early are also not acceptable; students engaged in such activities may be asked to leave the class. Instances of academic dishonesty and disruption also may be referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs, which can result in University disciplinary action (see Student Rights & Responsibilities section of the CSU General Catalog for more information). As an instructor it is my responsibility to ensure all students have an equal opportunity to learn the material without disruption or distraction. I take that responsibility seriously.

At this point ask Rob “Why do cell phones suck?”

**Special Needs:**
Please let me know as soon as possible if you have any special needs. If any student has a learning disability please contact the Resources for Disabled Students at 100 General Services Bldg. (west of the running track); phone: 491-6385. That way we can work to accommodate you as soon as possible. It is your responsibility to work with RDS and bring necessary paper work to me.

**Helpful Hints:**
1. Ask questions; 2. Test yourself by writing questions in the margin of your notebook paper, next to relevant lecture material; 3. Study with a partner or group; 4. Use the TA office hours; 5. Keep up with the material. In theory you should be studying 6-9 hrs/wk for a 3 credit class, but for some it will take more time and for others it will take less.