

## BIOL 7328 WATERBIRD MANAGEMENT

Clay Green

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Office Hours: M, T, W 9-11am, or by appt.

Lecture: Tuesday-Thursday, 11:00 – 12:15 pm

Room #: SUP 255

General Course Content: This course focuses on the ecology and management of waterbirds (orders Anseriiformes, Ciconiiformes, Pelecaniiformes, Gruiformes, and Charadriiformes) with an emphasis on the waterbirds of Texas (both inland and coastal). This course will use lectures, student presentations, and field trips to explore the ecology and management of waterbirds. Lecture material will focus on the following areas: 1) basic ecology of waterbirds including habitat requirements, migratory behavior and population dynamics and, 2) management techniques including monitoring, nesting/wintering censusing, and habitat management. Field trips will be used to visit national and state refuges and management areas that manage for waterbirds. Prior satisfactory completion of a course in Ornithology (or suitable equivalent) is expected for enrollment into this course.

Course Objectives: Students shall:

- Know and understand the basic ecology and habitat requirements of waterbirds with a particular emphasis on species occurring in Texas and surrounding regions.
- Become familiar with field research techniques used in waterbird management.
- Become familiar with current continental management plans for waterbirds.
- Present (oral and written) paper on current subject matter pertaining to waterbird management.

Textbook: No text. Readings from book chapters, primary literature, and management plans will be distributed via TRACS.

### Class Schedule--Subject to Change

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Readings</u>
- Introduction	01/16	Erwin 2002
- Survey of species	01/18-23	
- Evolution/systematics	01/25	Dubois et al 1998
- Mating systems	01/30	Hoysak and Ankney 1996
- Courtship/Pair formation	02/01	Conway et al. 2005
- Foraging ecology	02/06	Sundar 2006
<b>Exam 1</b>	<b>02/08</b>	
- Egg laying/incubation	02/13	Loos and Rohwer 2004
- Brood care	02/15	Gilbert and Servello 2005
- Prefledgling/postbreeding ecology	02/20	Plissner et al. 2000
- Waterbird migration/wintering ecology	02/22	Haig et al. 1998
- Breeding probability, clutch size, nest success	02/27	Moore and Morris 2005
- Population dynamics of waterbirds	03/01	Frederick et al. 1996
<b>Exam 2</b>	<b>03/06</b>	
- Wetland management/hydrology	03/08	Brown et al. 2002

- Rice and waterbirds	03/20	Elphick 2000
- Waterbird monitoring	03/22	Green et al. 2007
- Nesting/roosting colonies	03/27	Rounds et al. 2004
- Predator/pest management	03/29	Rohwer et al. 2004
- Hunting regulations	04/03	Conn and Kendall 2004
- Waterbird conservation	04/05	Bouton and Frederick 2003
- Waterbird plans	04/10	
- Texas T&E Waterbird species	04/12	
- Texas T&E Waterbird species	04/17	
<b>Student Presentations</b>	<b>04/19</b>	
<b>Field Trip to Anahuac NWR, High Island, Texas</b>	<b>04/20-22</b>	
<b>Student Presentations</b>	<b>04/24</b>	
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>04/26</b>	

### Grading

Lecture Tests: (65% of grade)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Test 15%
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Test 20%
- Final 25%

Species Management Plan: (30% of grade)

- Presentation 10%
- Written report 20%

Participation: (10% of grade)

- Classroom 5%
- Field Trip 5%

Course Grades: Course grades will be based on exams, management plan, and participation. Letter grades will be assigned in the standard fashion (A ≥ 90%, B ≥ 80%, etc.). The automatic “W” date is 9/13/05; students dropping after that date will be assigned a “W” if they are passing the course, or an “F” if they are failing.

Field Trips: This class involves field trips. Therefore your active and enthusiastic participation in the field trip is expected and will be a large part of your grade. Grading will be as follows: A (100%) – active and enthusiastic participant, C (75%) – limited active participation, F (50%) – unsatisfactory participation. Students not attending field trip will result in grade of zero for participation.

This is a graduate course and attendance of lectures is required. If the student has more than 3 *unexcused* absences, they may be required to drop the course.

EXAM MAKE-UP POLICY: If you miss an exam (other than the final) and have a valid, documented excuse, you may, at the instructor’s discretion, substitute the final exam grade for the missing grade. If the final exam (or final laboratory exam) is missed for a valid, documented reason, I will give the student an oral exam at the earliest possible date. All other missed exams will result in a grade of zero. Grades on lab reports will be reduced by one letter grade for each day they are late.

Academic Dishonesty: University policies regarding academic dishonesty can be located at <http://www.swt.edu/effective/upps/upps-07-10-01.html>. Students must familiarize themselves with the definitions of academic work and violations of the honor code including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, abuse of resource materials.