

Syllabus BIOL 4330 – Herpetology

Spring 2026

Professor:

Marsha G. Williams, HPR 107 or BEP 129 (Main Office), Ph. – 566-6194, Email – mwilliams@uttyler.edu
Office Hours: W, F 8:30-10:00 a.m., or by appointment.

Catalog Description: The study of the diversity of amphibians and reptiles including their evolution and distributions. Also covered will be their physiology, ecology, behavior, and conservation.

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes

- 1) Describe the evolution and diversity of amphibians and reptiles.
- 2) Describe the reproductive physiology and behavioral ecology of amphibians and reptiles.
- 3) Understand the ecology and conservation of amphibians and reptiles.
- 4) Critically read, analyze, and interpret research findings in scientific literature.

Required Texts:

Pough, F.H., R.M. Andrews, M.L. Crump, A.H. Savitzky, K.D. Wells, and M.C. Bradley. 2018. Herpetology, 4th Edition. Oxford University Press, New York, NY.

Primary literature will be provided on Canvas when necessary.

Student Evaluation:

Examinations (60%): Two midterm exams and a final exam will be administered according to the below schedule. Each will be worth 20% of your final grade.

A review will be given before each exam. This review does **not** constitute the exact exam questions you will be given on exam day. The review is meant to give you an idea of how to study the material and the types of questions you may find on the exam. All material covered for each exam module is possible for an exam question.

Please note: In the event you wish to dispute an exam grade (besides simple miscalculation of points), an essay outlining your argument must be submitted within one week of the exam being handed back to you.

Assignments (20%): There will be 2-3 assignments throughout the semester which will cumulatively be worth 20% of your grade. These assignments will be randomly assigned throughout the semester and will be started during class time but may require students to complete them for homework. Some of these assignments will be in the form of group presentations.

Attendance (20%): Attendance will be taken every class period.

We will follow a 10-point scale for grading:

90-100% = A, 80-89.99% = B, 70-79.99 = C, 60-69.99% = D, 0-59.99% = F

Academic Misconduct: Submitting plagiarized work to meet academic requirements including the representation of another's work or ideas as one's own; the unacknowledged word for word use of another person's ideas; and/or the falsification, fabrication, or dishonesty in reporting research results shall be grounds for charges of academic misconduct. Any cheating or other type of academic misconduct will be reported to university administration and at minimum will result in automatic failure of the course.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE (MWF 10:10 – 11:05, Soules Coll of Business 00203)

<u>Week</u>	<u>Lecture Topics</u>
Jan 12	Why study Herpetology and Origin of Amphibians (Ch. 1 and 2)
Jan 19	Jan 19 th is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (no classes); Diversity of Amphibians (Ch. 3); Video 'Great Transitions: The Origin of Tetrapods
Jan 26	Diversity of Reptiles (Ch. 4)
Feb 2	Diversity of Reptiles and Biogeography (Ch. 4 and 5),
Feb 9	Biogeography (Ch. 5); Group Presentation 1
Feb 16	Group Presentation 1; Midterm 1- Feb 20
Feb 23	Physiological Ecology—Water and Temperature Relations and Gas Exchange (Ch. 6 and 7)
Mar 2	Reproduction and Life Histories of Amphibians (Ch. 8)
Mar 9	Reproduction and Life Histories of Reptiles (Ch. 9)
Mar 16	Spring Break -- No Classes
Mar 23	Support, Locomotion and Feeding (Ch. 10 and 11); Group Presentation 2
Mar 30	Group Presentation 2; Midterm 2 – Apr 3
Apr 6	Spatial Ecology and Communication (Ch. 12 and 13)
Apr 13	Mating Systems and Sexual Selection (Ch. 14); Diets, Foraging, and Interactions with Parasites (Ch. 15), one slide presentations
Apr 20	One slide presentations, Populations and Species Assemblages, and Conservation (Ch. 16 and 17)
Apr 29	Final Exam – Wednesday April 29th (10:15 a.m. – 12:15 a.m.)

Important Dates:

Jan 19th: Martin Luther King, Jr day (no classes)
Feb 4th: Drop for non-payment
Feb 20th: Exam 1
Mar 9-13th: Spring Break (no classes)
Apr 3rd: Exam 2
Mar 30th: Last Day to Withdraw
Apr 27th-May 1st: Final Exams

Academic Integrity: Students should be aware that absolute academic integrity is expected of every student, in all courses taken at The University of Texas at Tyler. Failure to comply can result in strong university-imposed penalties. For instance, submitting plagiarized work to meet academic requirements including the representation of another's work or ideas as one's own; the unacknowledged word-for-word research results shall be grounds for charges of academic

misconduct. **Any cheating or other types of academic misconduct will be reported to the university administration and at minimum will result in an automatic failure of the course.**

Use of an AI Generator such as ChatGPT, iA Writer, MidJourney, DALL-E, etc. requires proper documentation/citation on submitted works. The information derived from these tools is based on previously published materials. Therefore, using these tools without proper citation constitutes plagiarism. Additionally, be aware that the information derived from these tools may be inaccurate or incomplete. **It is imperative that all work submitted should be your own.** Any assignment that is found to have been plagiarized or to have been written by AI tools may receive a zero and/or be reported for academic misconduct.