

**FNR 252 Laboratory In Ecology and Systematics  
of Amphibians, Reptiles, and Birds  
(1 credit)**

**Spring Semesters**

**Instructor:**

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**Course Objective:**

The Laboratory in Ecology and Systematics of Amphibians, Reptiles, and Birds gives students an opportunity to learn to identify important species of North American herpetofauna and avifauna, with an emphasis on midwestern U.S. species. Information regarding the ecology, natural history, and systematics of the amphibians, reptiles, and birds is presented. Through the use of a combination of preserved specimens, photographic images of selected species, field guides and standard taxonomic keys, students have an opportunity to learn the characteristic features of some of the important North American vertebrates. Taxonomic relationships, food habits, and habitat preferences are discussed.

**Required Texts:**

1. Conant, R. and J. T. Collins. 1998. A field guide to reptiles and amphibians: eastern and central North America, third edition, expanded. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co. 616 pp. [Peterson Field Guide]
2. National Geographic Society. 1999. Field guide to the birds of North America, fourth edition. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Society. 480 pp.
3. FNR 252 Laboratory Manual

### Grading Policy:

Students are expected to complete all assignments, including weekly quizzes and two laboratory practical exams. No make-ups will be given on lab quizzes or exams unless arrangements are made with the instructor before the scheduled lab session. There is no grading curve for FNR 252.

Amphibian/Reptile Quizzes (5 x 20 pts each)	=	100 points
Amphibian/Reptile Lab Practical Exam	=	200 points
Bird Quizzes (5 x 20 points each)	=	100 points
Bird Lab Practical Exam	=	<u>200</u> points
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>600</b> points

A	=	540 - 600 points
B	=	480 - 539 points
C	=	420 - 479 points
D	=	360 - 419 points
F	=	< 360 points

### **Course Schedule: 2008**

Date	Week	Exercise	Lab Activities
Jan. 8, 9, 10	1	1	introduction; frog calls audio tape, notes
Jan. 15, 16, 17	2	2	salamanders; herp quiz #1
Jan. 22, 23, 24	3	3	frogs and toads; herp quiz # 2
Jan 29, 30, 31	4	4	crocodilians, tuataras, and turtles; herp quiz # 3
Feb. 5, 6, 7	5	5	lizards; herp quiz # 4
Feb. 12, 13, 14	6	6	snakes; herp quiz # 5
Feb. 19, 20, 21	7	none	<b>LAB PRACTICAL EXAM: HERPS</b>
Feb. 26, 27, 28	8	1	bird set 1
Mar. 4, 5, 6	9	2	bird set 2; bird quiz # 1
Mar. 10-14	-	-	SPRING BREAK
Mar. 18, 19, 20	10	3	bird set 3; bird quiz # 2
Mar. 25, 26, 27	11	4	bird set 4; bird quiz # 3
Apr. 1, 2, 3	12	5	bird set 5; bird quiz # 4
Apr. 8, 9, 10	13	6	bird set 6; bird quiz # 5
Apr. 15, 16, 17	14	none	<b>LAB PRACTICAL EXAM: BIRDS</b>