

## **Tentative Syllabus for Biology 477**

**Raptor Ecology**, Fall 2020

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**OBJECTIVES and LEARNING OUTCOMES:** I expect students to be proficient with, that is, define (where pertinent), apply and synthesize, material in the following themes we cover this semester: technical literature, taxonomy, species identification, behavioral, population, and conservation ecology regarding birds of prey.

**CLERICAL CONSTRUCTS/ATTENDANCE:** I am offering this class exclusively as an asynchronous online course due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. Course material will occur in modules on Canvas (though it is possible I will attach some material to an email—EMAIL IS THE PRIMARY MANNER BY WHICH I WILL CONTACT STUDENTS with updates to course material, etc.). Thus, watch your emails please for updates. I have audio-complemented PowerPoint slides and thus you must prompt, when present, the speaker icon on the lower right space of each slide to listen to my voice/narration. NOTE: you need to first download each Canvas PowerPoint module to engage the audio recording of my voice, and further note that you need to take notes from the recordings because the slide images do not necessarily contain all course material for which you are responsible. Attendance is by default required vis-a-viz taking 2 scheduled exams on Canvas (see times for said tests below). **THE ONLY EXCUSED ABSENCES FROM A SCHEDULED EXAM TIME ARE MEDICAL EMERGENCIES EXCLUSIVELY REGARDING YOU.** Illnesses/funerals **ONLY** associated with direct/immediate family constitute excused absences from exams. **ALSO MAKE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS REGARDING CONFLICTS BETWEEN EXAM TIMES AND WORK SCHEDULES.** Make sure you notify me via email within a reasonable time for alternative schedules, etc.

**TESTS AND GRADING:** Electronically scored exams in Canvas will cover our material and assigned readings (see below) in your course texts. There will be one mid-term test (about 30-50 questions each) and a final exam (again, about 30-50 questions); see times below. The second, or last exam will be comprehensive. A curve typically is used for grading purposes, otherwise expect 90% and above A, 80-89% a B, 70-79% a C, etc. Scores within the above ranges will be assigned “+” and “-“ grades at my discretion. There is no extra-credit. Do not hesitate to contact me via email to get an estimate of your performance/grade on tests or for the course overall.

Attendance is required during exams by UWSP policy – see the University Catalog. There will be two exams, one on **Monday, 26 October**, and the last test on **Monday, 14 December**. Please make arrangements NOW to be present on those days (if you miss a test due to an unexcused absence, you’ll receive a zero on said exam). I ENCOURAGE YOU TO USE GOOGLE CHROME AS BROWSER VEHICLE FOR TESTS ON CANVAS. I AM STILL WORKING ON EXACT TIMES OF TESTS BUT EXPECT THE TEST TO BE AVIALABLE FOR ABOUT 2 MORNING HOURS, LIKELY ABOUT 9:30 UNTIL NOON.

**TEXT:** Bird, D.M. and K.L. Bildstein (Eds.). 2007. Raptor Research and Management Techniques. Hancock House, Blaine, WA. And R.N. Rosenfield, 2018, The Cooper's Hawk; breeding ecology and natural history of a winged huntsman. Hancock House. Not required but an excellent and affordable text for identification is: Hawks and Owls of the Great Lakes Region: Eastern North America, Firefly Books by Earley 2004.

**TESTS AND GRADING:** Each of the two exams will be comprised of both identification and ecology/conservation aspects and will be worth about 30-50 points. I will use slide images of raptors on your Raptor ID list (and not the same images I post on the YouTube teaching video for the class) and also essay, short answer, and multiple choice queries on the exams based on Canvas modules, which modules will likely include outside readings. The second and last test will be comprehensive regarding identification and lecture material, and any assigned readings. A curve may or may not be used for grading purposes, otherwise expect 90% and above "A," 80-89% a "B," 70-79% a "C," etc. Scores within the above ranges will be assigned "+" and "-" grades at my discretion.

**OFFICE HOURS:** My office is Room 474 CNR. Office hours are 1345-1445 hrs Thursday only by email; I will try to be at a computer at this time, but of course you can email at other times. Note that I have scheduled, mandatory furloughs this semester and that my Wi-Fi service at home is sometimes interrupted—thus do not expect that I will be able to answer an email 'immediately.' **We all of course must flex reasonably with day-to-day logistics given the extraordinary circumstances that pervade all aspects of life due to the virus.**

**DO NOT COME BY MY OFFICE expecting to see me this semester/academic year: I will NOT be meeting in person with any student until it is safe to do so, that is, when medical officials sanction said safety. Know that I sincerely appreciate your understanding and patience during these challenging times.**

**NON-SPECIES IDENTIFICATION TOPICS:**

- Introduction: overview and Literature
- Reversed Size Dimorphism
- Population Ecology (Status, Lifetime Reproduction; Floaters)
- Migration
- Current Issues (Conservation, etc.)

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:** Know your rights and responsibilities by reading the following link: <http://www.uwsp.edu/centers/rightsRRBOOKLET8-2005-06.pdf>.

Let's have some fun!