

**ABIO 516  
HERPETOLOGY  
SPRING, 2001**

**Instructor:** Dr. Hugh Hanlin  
**Office:** 101A SBDG  
**Phone #:** 641-3439

**Classroom/time:** Science Building 103; Mondays, 2:30-5:30 PM

**Textbook:** Herpetology, Zug  
Field Guide to Eastern Amphibians and Reptiles (Peterson Series), Conant & Collins

**Laboratory Supplies:**

A lab coat or apron to protect your clothes is recommended when handling preserved specimens. Gloves, hand lotion, soap, etc. are also recommended. (**Caution:** Exposure to formaldehyde has been linked to cancer in rats. The use of surgical gloves in ABIO 516 is recommended. Any students with special health considerations or conditions should inform their instructor and seek special instructions regarding exposure in labs.)

Dipnets and dichotomous keys to the amphibians and reptiles will be assigned to each student during the first week of class. Each student will be responsible for these supplies for the entire semester. FAILURE TO RETURN THESE SUPPLIES AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER WILL RESULT IN THE ASSIGNMENT OF THE GRADE OF "I". (The student will be required to sign a contract for the "incomplete", and the grade will be changed when all supplies have been returned or replaced.)

**Course Description:**

Systematics, distribution, morphology, life history, behavior, ecology and current literature of amphibians and reptiles with special emphasis on South Carolina species. Field collection required.

**Course Content:**

The biology of the amphibians and reptiles will be studied. Topics will include:

- Phylogeny
- Taxonomy
- Morphology
- Special adaptations
- Distribution
- Life History
- Population Ecology
- Care and Handling
- Preservation

**Competency Goals:**

By the end of the course students will have demonstrated the ability to:

- use taxonomic keys
- identify selected South Carolina amphibians and reptiles
- describe the morphology, distribution, behavior and life history of selected South Carolina amphibians and reptiles
- describe principles of population ecology, citing amphibian and/or reptiles species in examples
- critically review selected current literature of vertebrate biology
- conduct a literature search for one taxon and prepare a written review
- prepare a field notebook
- properly handle selected amphibians and reptiles
- properly preserve selected vertebrates
- describe the proper care for selected amphibians and reptiles

**Evaluation:**

40% - Lecture/Lab Exams  
20% - Collection/ Field Notebook  
20% - Literature Review/ Report  
20% - Final Exam

## Tentative Schedule

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	REFERENCES
1	<b>Jan 15</b>	<b>NO CLASS -- Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday</b>	
2	Jan 22	Amphibians: Keying Exercise (Taxonomy and Morphology)	Supplemental Keys
3	Jan 29	Amphibians: Phylogeny, Morphology, Distribution	Text 1,2, 14, 15
4	Feb 5	Amphibians: Life History and Population Dynamics	Text 5-12
5	Feb 12	Exam #1	
6	Feb 19	Reptiles: Keying Exercise (Taxonomy and Morphology)	Supplemental Keys
	<b>Feb 22</b>	<b>Last day to withdraw without receiving "WF"</b>	
7	Feb 26	Reptiles: Phylogeny, Morphology, Distribution	Text 3,4, 16-18
8	<b>Mar 2-11</b>	<b>SPRING BREAK (**Okeefenokee Field Trip)</b>	
9	Mar 12	Reptiles: Life History and Population Dynamics	Text 5-12
10	Mar 19	*Field Exercise	
11	Mar 26	Exam #2	
	<b>Mar 30-Apr 1</b>	<b>***Highlands Field Trip</b>	
12	Apr 2	*Field Exercise	
13	Apr 9	*Field Exercise	
14	Apr 16	*Field Exercise	
15	Apr 23	Care and Handling; Preservation Techniques	
	<b>Apr 27-29</b>	<b>***Edisto Island Field Trip</b>	
16	Apr 30	*Riverbanks Zoo	
17	<b>May 7</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM (2:00 PM)</b>	

\***In-class field exercises** will require appropriate attire for field work/reptile and amphibian sampling. In the event of inclement weather, specimen preservation techniques will be conducted in the laboratory.

\*\* **Optional Field Trip:** Okeefenokee National Wildlife Refuge - March 7-11, 2001

\*\*\* **Required Field Trips:** Appalachian Mtns./Highlands Biological Station - March 30-Apr 1, 2001  
Coastal Plain/Edisto Island - April 27-29, 2001

If you have schedule conflicts or are otherwise unable to attend the required field trips, the requirement may be satisfied with a written critique of selected journal articles.

### Field Trip Costs

There are no costs associated with local class field trips with the exception of the visit to the Riverbanks Zoo which will cost \$5.00 per student. The cost for each required weekend field trip is approximately \$50 per student. Although the total cost for the Okeefenokee trip is not finalized, you can expect a minimum cost of \$150 -\$200 per student. Start saving your pennies now!

### Collection Requirement:

A collection of amphibians and reptiles will be required. A point system for the collection will be outlined by your instructor. Each student will be expected to achieve a minimum of 100 points for their collection.

### Additional Comments:

1) You will be expected to have read the assigned chapters prior to lecture.

2) You will be expected to endorse the following HONOR PLEDGE on every quiz:

On my honor as a University of South Carolina at Aiken student, I have neither given nor received any unauthorized aid on this assignment/examination. To the best of my knowledge, I am not in violation of academic honesty.

3) No make-up exams will be given except under extreme situations (see Student Handbook).

4) You must attend at least 75% of the classes (11 class meetings) to receive a passing grade in the class.

5) You are encouraged to make appointments with your instructor if you are having problems in the course. In general, the following hours are available for appointments:

**MTTh 9:00-11:00 AM**

6) If you have a physical, psychological, and/or learning disability which might affect your performance in this class, please contact the Office of Disability Services, 126A B&E, (803) 641-3609, as soon as possible. The Disabilities Services Office will determine appropriate accommodations based on medical documentation.