

Syllabus: Museum Field Methods in Zoology & Botany

Description: Class covers research & field methods for biological disciplines associated with natural history museums: vertebrates, invertebrates, and plants. Emphasis is on field research techniques: observations, sampling, collection & preservation methods, and comparisons among elevation zones. Course includes 5 field labs, 2 weekend trips, 6 in-class labs, and experience with several taxonomic experts, and individual research projects.

Instructor: Christy M. McCain
Assistant Professor in EBIO & Curator of Vertebrates
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Office: MCOL E190C; Lab: MCOL E266
Office #: 1-303-735-1016

Course Codes: MUSM, EBIO, ENVS: 4795/5795

Lecture: Tuesday/Thursday 9:30-10:30 am

Lab: Friday 9-11:50am (Plus 2 weekend field trips)

Location: MCOL E280

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 10-11:30am, and by appointment

Text/Readings: No required text book. There will be assigned readings for each week. These will be given out in class or available on the CULearn website. Certain field guides will be helpful and there will be copies for your use in class and labs, but you may want to purchase some of these for your field projects and/or future use.

Course Schedule: A schedule of lectures, labs, and weekend trips is attached. Lecture and lab topics and dates are subject to change due to weather, schedules of visiting experts, and other opportunities.

Labs: Laboratory experiences are first-hand field trips to learn basic field techniques and in-class labs to learn basic museum techniques and identification on each organismal group. **You must be on time** or you will miss the van to the field.

Exams: There will be 2 lecture exams and a cumulative final exam. Questions will consist of short-answers.

Field Project: each student will chose a research site to be visited for 1 hour during each week for the semester starting the 1st week of September (13 field days). Site choices and procedures will be discussed during the first lab on August 29th. Each site will be monitored for plants, animals, and climate over the course of the semester. Field notes and a final class presentation during lab on Dec. 12th will be graded. Graduate level (5795): field project will be a semester-long field study; meet with McCain to okay project.

Grading: A total of 600 points are possible. As a crude rule-of-thumb, grades will be awarded as follows: 90-100% = A; 80-89% = B; 70-79% = C; 60-69% = D; below 60% = F. Borderline cases = "+" & "-".

Activity:	Undergrad Level (4795):	Graduate Level (5795):
Class Exams (100 & 150 pts each)	200 points	300 points
Final Exam	150 points	200 points
Field Notes	100 points	100 points
Class Project Presentation:	100 points	100 points
Class Project Paper:	N / A	100 points
Participation/Attendance	50 points	50 points
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Total	600 points	850 points

Administrative Reminders:

1. If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to Dr. McCain a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner (by end of second week of classes) so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. (303-492-8671, Willard 322, www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices).
2. Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, one quiz can be dropped from scores to accommodate one absence. For additional absences please talk to me in advance, so we can work out additional accommodations. See full details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html
3. Faculty and students should be aware of the campus "Classroom Behavior" policy at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html>. Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code.
4. The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>
5. All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>