The coastal plain of the Southeast boasts an outstanding diversity of amphibians and reptiles, making the region an excellent place to study these often reclusive and elusive creatures. This course provides students with an introduction to herpetology through lectures, discussions of original research papers, and a class project. Topics covered include the ecology, evolution, life history, diversity, behavior, and conservation of amphibians and reptiles. There will also be field excursions highlighting the methods and techniques for capturing and studying amphibians and reptiles. Prepare to get wet and muddy while exploring the marshes, pine woods, bayous, and other habitats as we search for and learn about the amphibians and reptiles of the northern Gulf Coast.

Prerequisites: Two semesters of biology or permission of instructor. Dr. Matthew Chatfield. Field Exercises in Coastal Herpetology; COA 412/512. Three semester hours credit.