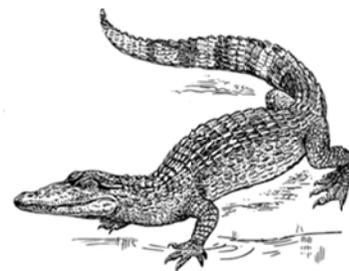


Coastal Herpetology

Gulf Coast Research Lab

May 22–June 2, 2017



Instructor: Dr. Matthew Chatfield
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Course description: 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 will provide students with an introduction to herpetology through lectures, discussions of original research papers, and a class project. Topics covered will include the ecology, evolution, life history, diversity, behavior, and conservation of amphibians and reptiles. There will also be many field excursions highlighting methods and techniques for capturing and studying amphibians and reptiles. Be prepared to get wet and muddy since we will be 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.

Required readings: Selected readings will be handed out on the first day of class

Suggested reading: Field guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern and Central North America, 4th Edition (2016), by Powell, Conant and Collins

Required equipment: Rubber boots or waders, field clothes, sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, water bottle, sleeping bag (use of sleeping pad and tent provided)

Grading:	<u>Undergraduates (COA 412)</u>	<u>Graduate students (COA 512)</u>
	Quiz 20	Quiz 20
	Presentation 50	Presentation 50
	Field notebook 50	Field notebook 50
	Practical 80	Practical 80
	<u>Final exam 100</u>	Final exam 100
	Total possible points 300	<u>Review paper 100</u>
		Total possible points 400

Quiz: Will emphasize species identification

Presentation: Leading a class discussion OR analyzing and presenting the class project results

Field notebooks: Format will be discussed on the first day of class (to be handed in on the last day of class)

Practical: Will cover species and methods, with an emphasis on the field trips

Final exam: Will emphasize material presented in lectures and readings

Tentative schedule:

Day	Morning (about 8am-11am)	Afternoon (about 1-4pm)	Evening (about 6-9pm)
May 22	GCRL orientation & Class introductions & Lecture 1: Introduction to Herpetology	Field trip 1: Mississippi Sandhill Crane NWR	Class Project (set traps at Ward Bayou)
23	Class project (pull traps at Ward Bayou) & Field trip 2: Ward Bayou	Lecture 2: Methods in Herpetology & Lecture 3: Anatomy and Physiology	Movie night & Study time
24	Lecture 4: Reproduction & Study time	Class discussion 1 & Study time	Class project (set traps at Stennis)
25	Class project (pull traps at Stennis)	Field trip 3: Cane Bayou	Field trip 3: Cane Bayou
26	Lecture 5: Movement and Diet & Class discussion 2	Lecture 6: Communication & Quiz	Study time
27	No class	No class	No class
28	No class	No class	No class
29	Lecture 7: Defense and Escape & Class discussion 3	Field trip 4: Paul B. Johnson SP (overnight)	Field trip 4: Paul B. Johnson SP (overnight) & Class project (set traps at PBJ)
30	Class project (pull traps at PBJ) & Field trip 5: Camp Shelby	Field trip 5: Camp Shelby	Field trip 5: Camp Shelby
31	Lecture 8: Conservation & Study time	Study time	Field trip 6: Pascagoula River
June 1	Class discussion 4 & Study time	Class presentations & Study time	Study time
2	Practical exam & Final exam	Sit back, relax and ponder all that you've learned	

Disability accommodations: If a student has a disability that qualifies under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and requires accommodations, he/she should contact the Office for Disability Accommodations (ODA) for information on appropriate policies and procedures. Disabilities covered by ADA may include learning, psychiatric, physical disabilities, or chronic health disorders. Students can contact ODA if they are not certain whether a medical condition/disability qualifies.

Address:

The University of Southern Mississippi
Office for Disability Accommodations
118 College Drive # 8586
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001

Voice Telephone: 601.266.5024 or 228.214.3232

Fax: 601.266.6035

Individuals with hearing impairments can contact ODA using the **Mississippi Relay Service** at 1.800.582.2233 (TTY) or emailing ODA at oda@usm.edu.

Academic integrity: All students at the University of Southern Mississippi are expected to demonstrate the highest levels of academic integrity in all that they do. Forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to):

1. Cheating (including copying from others' work)
2. Plagiarism (representing another person's words or ideas as your own; failure to properly cite the source of your information, argument, or concepts)
3. Falsification of documents
4. Disclosure of test or other assignment content to another student
5. Submission of the same paper or other assignment to more than one class without the explicit approval of all faculty members' involved
6. Unauthorized academic collaboration with others
7. Conspiracy to engage in academic misconduct

Engaging in any of these behaviors or supporting others who do so will result in academic penalties and/or other sanctions. If a faculty member determines that a student has violated our Academic Integrity Policy, sanctions ranging from resubmission of work to course failure may occur, including the possibility of receiving a grade of "XF" for the course, which will be on the student's transcript with the notation "Failure due to academic misconduct." For more details, please see the University's [Academic Integrity Policy](#). Note that repeated acts of academic misconduct will lead to expulsion from the University.