

JAMESTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
State University of New York

INSTITUTIONAL COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Title: Biology of Birds

Course Abbreviation and Number: BIO 1520

Credit Hours: 1 credit hour.

Course Type: Lecture

Course Description: In this introduction to birds, one of the most colorful and popular groups of animals on our planet, students will learn about basic anatomy and physiology, evolutionary history, classification and identification by sight and song, behavior, and ecological importance. Outdoor fieldwork is included.

Eligibility: ENG 1510 without supports or Corequisite: ENG 1510 with supports.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

1. Identify and compare bird morphologies to other animals.
 2. Utilize scientific classification, organization, and taxonomic nomenclature.
 3. Explain the principle of evolution and its application to the evolutionary history of birds and the evolution of flight.
 4. Identify environmental influences on bird survival, reproduction, and evolutionary pathways.
 5. Apply a basic knowledge of the evolution of bird behaviors.
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Topics Covered:

- Introduction to Birds
 - General Characteristics
 - Anatomy: Internal and External
 - Origins and Evolution
 - VIDEO: “To Fly or Not to Fly”
 - Taxonomy of Birds
 - Survey of All Major Orders
 - Bird Adaptations: Feathers, Beaks, Feet
 - VIDEO: “The Insatiable Appetite”
 - Birds of Prey
 - Owl Pellet Lab; Study bird skins.
 - Bird Behavior & Communication
 - Bird Songs
 - Territoriality
 - Courtship
 - VIDEO: “Signals and Songs”
 - Ecological Importance of Birds
 - Conservation Issues
 - VIDEO: “Finding Partners”
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Information for Students

- Expectations of Students
 - [Civility Statement](#)
 - [Student Responsibility Statement](#)
 - [Academic Integrity Statement](#)
 - [Accessibility Services](#)

Students who require accommodations to complete the requirements and expectations of this course because of a disability must make their accommodation requests to the Accessibility Services Coordinator.
 - [Get Help: JCC & Community Resources](#)
 - [Emergency Closing Procedures](#)
 - Course grade is determined by the instructor based on a combination of factors, including but not limited to, homework, quizzes, exams, projects, and participation. Final course grade can be translated into a grade point value according to the following:

A=4.0	B+=3.5	B=3	C+=2.5	C=2	D+=1.5	D=1	F=0
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 - Veterans and active duty military personnel with special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployments, drill requirements, VA appointments) are welcome and encouraged to communicate these to the instructor.
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Effective Date: Fall 2021