

I. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course will explore the biological and ecological life requirements of important Ontario bird species. Topics will include avian anatomy and physiology, bird habits and behaviour, conservation issues, field inventories and field identification of common Ontario species, both visually and by vocalization.

II. **LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ELEMENTS OF THE PERFORMANCE:**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will demonstrate the ability to:

1. ***Describe how bird behaviour is unique in the animal kingdom.***

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Research required readings and the Internet to collect theories related to bird behaviour
- Summarize different theories that explain activities such as :
 - Migration
 - Vocalization
 - Territoriality
 - Nest building

This outcome constitutes approximately 15% of the final grade in this course

2. ***Inventory the principal game and non-game birds in the Sault area***

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Use visual field marks to identify about 125 common bird species from digital images, video, or field guides to 75% accuracy.
- Use a bird identification field guide effectively
- Key out unidentified bird species
- Keep ongoing spreadsheet or web-based records of bird sightings in the Algoma district
- Identify 20 species of waterfowl from wings collected from hunters at a check station.
- Identify approximately 50 species of birds by vocalization

This outcome constitutes approximately 65% of the final grade in this course

3. ***Understand habitat requirements and conservation issues all Ontario upland game birds, endangered or threatened non-game birds, and waterfowl.***

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Research the habitat requirements of the above groups of birds
- Be prepared on theory tests to present a summary of habitat requirements and management considerations for improving habitat for major avian groups

This outcome constitutes approximately 20% of the final grade in this course

III. TOPICS:

Note: These topics will not necessarily be explored as isolated learning units, or in the order presented below:

1. Avian anatomy and physiology
2. Bird behaviour
3. Habitat requirements and mitigation
4. Identification of:
 - Birds by visual field marks
 - Waterfowl wings
 - Avian vocalizations

IV. REQUIRED RESOURCES/TEXTS/MATERIALS:

1. Peterson Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America – available in the bookstore
2. Birding by Ear – on reserve in the library
3. More Birding by Ear – on reserve in the library
4. Stokes Field Guide to Bird Songs – on reserve in the library

V. EVALUATION PROCESS/GRADING SYSTEM:

Assignment due dates will be clearly indicated at the beginning of the semester. Penalties of 10% per day will apply to all late assignments. After ten days late the assignment will technically have a value of “0” but may still be required to complete the course successfully. A final grade will be derived from a combination of theory tests, practical tests, written assignments and field assignments. All assignments must be word-processed.

Practical Test	55%
Theory Tests	25%
Assignments	20%
Total	100%

The following semester grades will be assigned to students in postsecondary courses:

Grade	<u>Definition</u>	<i>Grade Point Equivalent</i>
A+	90 – 100%	4.00
A	80 – 89%	3.00
B	70 - 79%	2.00
C	60 - 69%	1.00
D	50 – 59%	0.00
F (Fail)	49% and below	
CR (Credit)	Credit for diploma requirements has been awarded.	
S	Satisfactory achievement in field /clinical placement or non-graded subject area.	
U	Unsatisfactory achievement in field/clinical placement or non-graded subject area.	
X	A temporary grade limited to situations with extenuating circumstances giving a student additional time to complete the requirements for a course.	
NR	Grade not reported to Registrar's office.	
W	Student has withdrawn from the course without academic penalty.	

SPECIAL NOTES:

Students should plan on identification tests (either in lab or in the field) virtually every week.

On identifications tests, correctly identifying 65% of the specimens is equivalent to a mark of 50%; which is the passing level for the course. Mark equivalents increase in a linear fashion, meaning that 94% of the specimens must be identified correctly to achieve a mark of 90%, the A+ level for the course. A simple conversion chart will allow students to readily convert their test results to college standardized mark equivalents.

If a class is missed for a good reason, it is important that the student promptly discuss the absence with his/her instructor. If the absence is not explained within a reasonable period of time (typically one week), the student will receive a grade of zero for any tests missed, and may lose attendance marks as well

Hard hats and reflective vests must be worn on all field trips

Bus or van transportation is provided for all field trips away from the main campus. Use of personal vehicles on field trips will only be allowed with the written permission of the instructor. Excepting those with written permission, students who do not travel on the bus or van will not be allowed to participate in field activities, or write field tests.

At the instructor's discretion, a rewrite test may be allowed for students combining participation and good attendance with a final mark within 5% of the passing level. Rewrites will normally consist of a single test (both identification and written material) covering the entire semester's work. The highest grade achievable on a rewrite test is "C".

Your instructor reserves the right to modify the course as he/she deems necessary to meet the needs of students.

VII. PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT: Students who wish to apply for advance credit transfer (advanced standing) should obtain an Application for Advance Credit Form from the program coordinator (for course-specific courses), or the course coordinator (for general education courses), or the program's academic assistant. Students will be required to provide an unofficial transcript and course outline related to the course in question.

Credit for prior learning will also be given upon successful completion of a challenge exam or portfolio

Course Outline Amendments:

The professor reserves the right to change the information contained in this course outline depending on the needs of the learner and the availability of resources.

Retention of Course Outlines:

It is the responsibility of the student to retain all course outlines for possible future use in acquiring advanced standing at other postsecondary institutions.

Prior Learning Assessment:

Students who wish to apply for advance credit transfer (advanced standing) should obtain an Application for Advance Credit from the program coordinator (or the course coordinator regarding a general education transfer request) or academic assistant. Students will be required to provide an unofficial transcript and course outline related to the course in question. Please refer to the Student Academic Calendar of Events for the deadline date by which application must be made for advance standing.

Credit for prior learning will also be given upon successful completion of a challenge exam or portfolio.

Substitute course information is available in the Registrar's office.

Disability Services:

If you are a student with a disability (e.g. physical limitations, visual impairments, hearing impairments, or learning disabilities), you are encouraged to discuss required accommodations with your professor and/or the Disability Services office. Visit Room E1101 or call Extension 2703 so that support services can be arranged for you.

Communication:

The College considers **WebCT/LMS** as the primary channel of communication for each course. Regularly checking this software platform is critical as it will keep you directly connected with faculty and current course information. Success in this course may be directly related to your willingness to take advantage of the **Learning Management System** communication tool.

Plagiarism:

Students should refer to the definition of “academic dishonesty” in *Student Code of Conduct*. A professor/instructor may assign a sanction as defined below, or make recommendations to the Academic Chair for disposition of the matter. The professor/instructor may (i) issue a verbal reprimand, (ii) make an assignment of a lower grade with explanation, (iii) require additional academic assignments and issue a lower grade upon completion to the maximum grade “C”, (iv) make an automatic assignment of a failing grade, (v) recommend to the Chair dismissal from the course with the assignment of a failing grade. In order to protect students from inadvertent plagiarism, to protect the copyright of the material referenced, and to credit the author of the material, it is the policy of the department to employ a documentation format for referencing source material.

Student Portal:

The Sault College portal allows you to view all your student information in one place. **mysaultcollege** gives you personalized access to online resources seven days a week from your home or school computer. Single log-in access allows you to see your personal and financial information, timetable, grades, records of achievement, unofficial transcript, and outstanding obligations, in addition to announcements, news, academic calendar of events, class cancellations, your learning management system (LMS), and much more. Go to <https://my.saultcollege.ca>.

Electronic Devices in the Classroom:

Students who wish to use electronic devices in the classroom will seek permission of the faculty member before proceeding to record instruction. With the exception of issues related to accommodations of disability, the decision to approve or refuse the request is the responsibility of the faculty member. Recorded classroom instruction will be used only for personal use and will not be used for any other purpose. Recorded classroom instruction will be destroyed at the end of the course. To ensure this, the student is required to return all copies of recorded material to the faculty member by the last day of class in the semester. Where the use of an electronic device has been approved, the student agrees that materials recorded are for his/her use only, are not for distribution, and are the sole property of the College.

Attendance:

Sault College is committed to student success. There is a direct correlation between academic performance and class attendance; therefore, for the benefit of all its constituents, all students are encouraged to attend all of their scheduled learning and evaluation sessions. This implies arriving on time and remaining for the duration of the scheduled session. *<Optional: It is the departmental policy that once the classroom door has been closed, the learning process has begun. Late arrivers will not be granted admission to the room.>*

Tuition Default:

Students who have defaulted on the payment of tuition (tuition has not been paid in full, payments were not deferred or payment plan not honoured) as of the first week of *<choose November, March, or June>* will be removed from placement and clinical activities. This may result in loss of mandatory hours or incomplete course work. Sault College will not be responsible for incomplete hours or outcomes that are not achieved or any other academic requirement not met as of the result of tuition default. Students are encouraged to communicate with Financial Services with regard to the status of their tuition prior to this deadline to ensure that their financial status does not interfere with academic progress.

<include any other special notes appropriate to your course>