

SAULT COLLEGE

SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO



Sault College

COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE TITLE: Ornithology

CODE NO. : NRT135 **SEMESTER:** 2

PROGRAM: Fish and Wildlife Conservation Technician

AUTHOR: Bob Knudsen

DATE: Jan. 2014 **PREVIOUS OUTLINE DATED:** Jan. 2013

APPROVED: "Colin Kirkwood" **Jan. 2014**
Dean

TOTAL CREDITS: 3

PREREQUISITE(S): None

HOURS/WEEK: 3

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For additional information please contact

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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 20% 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 92 common bird species from digital images, video, or field guides to 75% accuracy.
- Participate in bird inventories, such as Waterfowl Inventories, Nocturnal Owl Surveys or Hawk Watches
- Use a bird identification field guide effectively
- Key out unidentified bird species
- Identify approximately 35 species of birds by vocalization

This outcome constitutes approximately 50% 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

4. ***Attendance of all classes is imperative. A quiz will begin each class. This quiz will constitute approximately 10% of the final grade.***

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
 - Avian vocalizations

IV. REQUIRED RESOURCES/TEXTS/MATERIALS:

1. Peterson Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America
2. The Sibley Guide to Birds – available in the bookstore
3. Birding by Ear – on reserve in the library
4. More Birding by Ear – on reserve in the library
5. 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, quizzes, written assignments and field assignments. All assignments must be word-processed.

Practical Test	50%
Theory Tests	20%
Assignments	20%
Quizzes	10%
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.	

VI. SPECIAL NOTES:

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

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. SPECIAL NOTES:

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.

VII. COURSE OUTLINE ADDENDUM:

The provisions contained in the addendum located on the portal form part of this course outline.