

**Herpetology (Biology 489), University of Idaho, Fall 2008  
Syllabus**

**Lecture:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
1:30-2:20 pm  
Life Sciences 163

**Lab:** Thursday  
1:30-4:20 pm  
Life Sciences 341

**Instructor:** Dr. Luke Harmon  
lukeh@uidaho.edu  
**Office:** LSS 347  
**Office hours:** 2:30-3:30 pm Fridays or by appointment

**Teaching assistant:** Travis Hagey  
thagey@vandals.uidaho.edu  
Office and hours TBA

**Textbook:**  
Pough et al., 2004. Herpetology. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Prentice Hall.  
Stebbins and Peterson, 2003, A Field guide to Western Reptiles and Amphibians, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Houghton Mifflin.

Additional *required* reading will be handed out in class and available on the course website; supplementary books are available on reserve in the library.

**Important dates:**

Midterm exam 1:30-2:20 pm, Friday, October 10, 2008  
Final exam 12:30-2:30 pm, Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2008

**Internet resources:**

*Course website:* will be available through Blackboard (<http://blackboard.uidaho.edu/>). You will be able to access the page by logging into your account there. If you can't access the class, please let me know by email. This page has a discussion forum, my lecture notes as pdf files, and posted assignments and quizzes. You will also be able to access your course grades.

*Tree of life* (<http://tolweb.org/tree/>) summarizes the evolutionary relationships among living things, and includes a large section on amphibians and reptiles.

*AmphibiaWeb* (<http://amphibiaweb.org/>) and *Amphibian Species of the World* (<http://research.amnh.org/herpetology/amphibia/index.php>) have species accounts for all known species of amphibians. *The Reptile Database* (<http://www.reptiliaweb.org/>) is the equivalent for reptiles.

Idaho-specific information can be found at the *Digital Atlas of Idaho* (<http://imnh.isu.edu/digitalatlas/>).

On my lab website (*Harmon Lab*, <http://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/~lukeh/>), you can find some information about my research on island lizards, and links to other herpetology research labs.

You will all be responsible for creating or overhauling a page in the *Herps of Idaho Wikipedia* (<http://idahoherps.pbwiki.com/>).

### **Course objectives:**

This course has two goals. First, I want to introduce you to the diversity of reptiles and amphibians around the world, and their evolutionary history. Second, I believe that classes like this introduce students to integrative biology. This is an approach to doing science where one tries to integrate as much information as possible to understand an organism and its relationship to the environment. This requires the combination of scientific information from evolution, ecology, physiology, behavior, genetics, and other fields; we will try to weave all of these things together to understand the interactions between species and their natural environment.

### **Grading:**

Herps of Idaho -- WikiPage	10%
Herps of Idaho -- Quiz	10%
In-class presentations	10%
Lab reports	10%
Lab practical	10%
Mid-term exam	20%
<u>Final exam</u>	<u>30%</u>
Total	100%

### **Plagiarism:**

Your exams are expected to reflect your own work, and plagiarism will not be tolerated. There can be absolutely no copying during exams. On assignments, you can work as a group, but it is not acceptable to copy another student's work and turn it in as your own.

### **Make-up Policy:**

I will schedule a make-up for the midterm exam and class presentations only if notified in advance. University policy prohibits students from taking the final exam at any time other than the regularly scheduled time (12:30-2:30 pm, Friday, Dec. 14, 2007).

### **Late assignments:**

See schedules for due dates. Ten percent will be deducted for every day that an assignment is late.