



BSC 337B or AG 337B and Field Methods (CRN: 40378)

Course: Field Methods in Wildlife and Conservation Science with lab 337L.01L required. Cross-listed with AG 337.01B and required lab AG 337.01L

Meeting Time: Online coursework with face-to-face labs. Lab 337L meets on Wednesday and Thursday from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm (noon) in STC 136. The lab schedule is based on animal handling protocols/requirements.

Locations of field work will vary so always check each week.

Instructor: Cindy Jones

Graduate Teaching Instructor: Atiya Naushinara

Email: cindy.jones@etamu.edu

*Email is the best way to contact me.

Office: STC 241

Office Hours: Please email for an appointment. Monday to Friday (9 to 5) I will usually be on campus.

Textbook (Required): You should already have this manual as part of other coursework so the following will serve as our reference:

The Wildlife Techniques Manual Volume 1: Research edited by Nova J. Silvy

This Manual is published in cooperation with The Wildlife Society and John Hopkins Press.

Course Description: This course provides students with practical training in the methods used to collect quantitative data on plant and animal populations, animal movements and home ranges, habitat associations, and animal behavior. Field exercises are integrated with lecture material emphasizing study design, statistics, and data interpretation.

Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Exemplify the ability to prepare and properly outfit for field work with safety of oneself and others as the goal.
- Index and characterize ecological conditions by the use of field documentation.
- Employ equipment for deterministic assessment of variables such as animal presences, range, habitat association and use.
- Employ equipment for quantitative assessment of variables such as wildlife habitat, populations, animal behavior, and community interactions.
- Read and analyze peer-reviewed articles of field methodology from diverse evolutionary clades.
- Professional Skills
 - Demonstrate the ability to work as a productive team member on a large field project.
 - Articulate ideas through writing.
 - Demonstrate interpersonal skills of critique, collaboration, and project management.

Course Requirements:

- Proficiency in using the D2L Brightspace Learning Management System through myLeo Online
- Proficiency in use of Microsoft Office; Word, Excel, and PowerPoint
- Potential usage or installation of relevant graphics programs or third-party programs for viewing PowerPoint slides

Instructional Methods Be sure to read this!

Students are responsible for beginning their participation on the first day of class by logging on and completing assignments according to the Course Timeline. Failure to submit online assignments between the first day of classes and the universities census date will result in an ADMINISTRATIVE DROP from the course.

This course will be a combination of project-work, text-book study and data analysis. You must participate on a small project team and contribute to the larger project. Your participation in the project includes weekly lab meetings which includes field assignments.

Participation Policy: Online participation will include posting on the course discussion modules and interacting with other students on the discussion board. It is required that you be in lab each week to learn how to gather data in the field. You really can't do that online.

You will have selected readings and complete independent research on methods for differing taxa each week. PowerPoints of chapter notes will be made available in the D2L Learning Management System at myLeo Online. In lab, you will work in teams to collect data using various field equipment and methods. You will have some quizzing and exams over key topics; however, the majority of your grade is based on your field work and the reporting of that gathered data. Our project this summer will focus on the Artificial Wetlands and Prairie Preserve on Hwy. 24.

Student Responsibilities:

- Read and understand the timelines for the course requirements on day one.
- Regularly check both myLEO Online and university email accounts for announcements.
- Attend and participate in weekly laboratory work sessions, grades will be taken in every session.

How to stay Current:

Class and Lab announcements for important events will be regularly posted through the D2L course website. You should check it daily for important information. Course progress and grades can be monitored through the online D2L system.

Student Assessments:

Your course grade will be distributed and assessed as follows:

15% Weekly reading, analysis and discussions on field methods.

15% Temporal project – (early morning, evening, or night)
independent field project.

15% Quizzing and Exams.

30% Final Project Report with species list and contribution to ArcGIS Online map.

25% Transferred from lab grade, see lab syllabus for grading framework.

100 %

Brief Overview of Course Required Assessments:**Weekly Reading & Discussion Assignments** – 15% of grade.

You will research a field method(s) from assigned clades and write a review. These review papers should be 3 pages double spaced with citations on the 4th page. These papers will have a summation of the field methodology reviewed withing the researched article. You will add your opinions, ideas for further studies, thoughts on problems, or creative additions to the method reviewed. You will drop the paper into an assignment box each Friday by midnight and make a short posting about the methodology on the open discussion board for that week. You will then read about topics that other student's researched and add constructive comments or criticisms of those methods.

Temporal Project – 15%

Our field work is limited to our lab times on Wednesdays and Thursdays. You will have an extra assigned method that is outside of those timeframes. Animals have behaviors outside of our daytime labs, so you will apply a field method during early mornings (sunrise), late evenings (sunset) or during the night. We will have a discussion board for you to post about what you are planning and then your results. This will have to be something you can do with limited equipment and absolutely no animal handling. You will also drop your final report into an assignment box.

Quizzing and Exams – 15%

This is a project-based course; subsequently, grading is heavier on projects and lab work. I do want you to do some reading and learning (memorizing) covering some fundamental concepts. Exams and quizzing will be online and based upon the chapters assigned or additional information from each week's module.

All other grading comes from the lab and field work.

Lab Grade is based on the following:

- ✓ Explore a field method each week.
- ✓ Keep a field notebook.
- ✓ Safety and proper personal protective clothing.
- ✓ Participate in group data share, discussion and quiz at the end of each field method day.
- ✓ Build data into a final project report.

No field grade will be dropped. Lab participation has the following grade potential.

Week One: Wednesday June 4 th	50 points
Week One: Thursday June 5 th	50 points
Week Two: Wednesday June 11 th	50 points
Week Two: Thursday June 12 th	50 points
Week Three: Wednesday June 18 th	50 points
Week Three: Thursday June 19 th	50 points
Week Four: Wednesday June 25 th	50 points
Week Four: Thursday June 26 th	50 points
Lab Grade Potential:	400 points

If you miss a lab you will NOT earn any points. For example, missing one lab will drop the lab portion of your grade to 350 points which is equal to a maximum lab grade of 87.5% for lab work. Missing two labs will drop you to 300 points or 75% as your lab grade.

Final Project Report with species list and contribution to ArcGIS Online map – 20%

You will assimilate each week's lab methods and data collected into a final report. The report must be 8 pages of text. You will organize the report in scientific-paper style: Introduction, Methods, Results and Discussion. You will use 12-point, Times New Roman font and double-spaced with no extra spacing between paragraphs. A listing of species from all group members and a map with data points must be included as an addendum. Citations will also be added after the 8 pages of text. More information and weekly work will be in the Module about the Project report.

I will provide grading rubrics to guide your work with papers, projects, discussion-board exchange, and lab work. A lab syllabus will be provided as a separate document.

Weekly modules (content folders) in D2L will give required readings and completion dates and further information for field work, quizzing, projects, and discussions.

Tentative* Schedule for Units and Exams:

Dates	Tentative Plans	Tentative Assignments Due Dates will be given in D2L
Week 1 June 1 st	Syllabus and Course Overview, Introductions and Field Safety Vegetative Sampling and Measurements & Habitat Assessment Methods Evolution and Clade Review	First 2, You have 2 to start! Reading & Discussions Quiz Lab Field Grades
W2 June 8 th	Clade Methodology Research Chapter/PowerPoint Reading Lab Field Work	3 rd Reading & Discussions Lab Field Grades
W3 June 15 th	Clade Methodology Research Chapter/PowerPoint Reading Lab Field Work	Exam One Due Lab Field Grades
W4 June 22 nd	Clade Methodology Research Chapter/PowerPoint Reading Lab Field Work	4 th Reading & Discussion Lab Field Grades
W5 June 29 th	Final Exam and Final Report Week No Lab Fieldwork	Temporal Project Due Final Project Paper Due Final Exam Due

** This class schedule is subject to change. Changes will be announced in class &/or through your D2L course announcements. The weather will impact our course and field dates.*

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage Distribution
A	89.5 to 100
B	79.5 - 89.5
C	69.5 -79.5
D	59.5 – 69.5
F	59.5 and below

Be sure to check the gradebook on D2L frequently.

Grade Questions or Disputes

Once grades have been posted you have 4 days to question a grade or request a grade review.

Grades can be viewed on the myLeo D2L course page.

After the 4-day review period the grades will be “locked” and no changes will be made. Review your work on a timely basis, and don’t expect me to review or change a grade that is not current.

Grades are earned by student work and learning; you should therefore earn your grade and not expect a “bump-up”. How is an instructor to decide who deserves a bump and who does not? What is the bump level, a 69 or 68? If you make a 69.1 that is listed on the above grading scale as a D grade, expect to make a D.

A note about bonus work or extra credit:

It often happens that a student will send an email during the last days of class and ask for extra work to bring their grade up to the next grade level. *There is nothing you can do during the last week or days to make-up for a semester of great study habits.* Your job is to learn the material throughout the course. I understand that it can be frustrating when you earn an 89, but B will be your grade

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS – Learning Management System (LMS)

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.etamu.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact D2L Support, who will determine the best course of action for resolution. Reported issues are prioritized by supported browsers and then maintenance browsers.

You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:

o Adobe Reader <https://get.adobe.com/reader/> o Adobe Flash Player (version 17 or later) <https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/> o Adobe Shockwave Player <https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/> o Apple Quick Time <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@etamu.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Technical Support, Brightspace D2L Support - Need Help?

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words "click here" to submit an issue via email.

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

System Maintenance

D2L runs monthly updates during the last week of the month, usually on Wednesday. The system should remain up during this time unless otherwise specified in an announcement. You may experience minimal impacts to performance and/or look and feel of the environment.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Interaction with Instructor Statement

The grading of the assignments, quizzes, and exams will be completed within 1-5 working days depending on the length of the assignment or test.

Student Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor. *Students are encouraged to make an appointment with the instructor to discuss any issue related to the course individually or in groups. The instructor should be your first contact for course questions or concerns.*

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.etamu.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Electronic Devices/Mobile Phone Policy

During lab or lecture mobile phones should be on silent (not vibrate). Never take a call during lecture or lab, step out of the room so you don't disrupt others.

During testing, cell phones should NOT be VISIBLE and must be turned OFF. If a cell phone or any other electronic device is visible, regardless of use, it will result in a zero for the assignment and reported to the Dean of Students as academic dishonesty and could lead to being withdrawn from the course with a grade of "F".

You are not allowed to disrupt the testing environment for others.

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

Attendance and Absences:

You are expected to attend ALL scheduled lab sessions and complete all exams and assignments as scheduled. You will be held responsible for all information covered in the lecture.

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.etamu.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Lab Makeup Policy: Lab points are earned on the scheduled date of lab. There is no way to make-up a required lab. If you provide a doctor excuse with contact information you will be provided an alternative written research assignment. This assignment will be 5 pages of written text followed by a works cited page. This is a course on field methods therefor participation in the field is a requirement.

Students who have federal loans and grants must be aware that participation is monitored in online courses. In the event a student withdraws from a course the student will be required to refund all federal funds prorated from the last date of participation. A student's last access to the D2L Brightspace LMS would not suffice as participation. The required weekly activity could include a comment to a discussion board posting, a journal entry, a quiz or exam, a submitted assignment or other measurable and tracked activity.

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form

<http://www.etamu.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.etamu.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status.

Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and East Texas A&M Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

East Texas A&M University Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.etamu.edu/counsel