

**SYLLABUS--Zoology 1114, Spring 2012**

Welcome to the University of Oklahoma. I hope your time here is well spent and that the university experience turns out to be a positive one. IntroZoo 1114 is intended for first year students who are not majoring in biological sciences. Consequently, this course enrolls people from a wide variety of backgrounds and with an equal diversity of goals and interests. In addition, biology is an exceedingly broad subject; therefore, although lecture will be primarily from the text, you should expect to occasionally hear, or participate in, discussion of current scientific issues that affect your daily life.

***How do I talk to someone about the course?***

Intro Zoo has its own email. It's [zoo1114@ou.edu](mailto:zoo1114@ou.edu). This is the best way to reach us.

Your **professor** is Michael Kaspari, Presidential Professor of Zoology. You can arrange an appointment by sending him an email at the above address. I'm also usually available before or after lectures and can help answer your questions then.

Your **course administrator** is Melody Brooks, also from Zoology. She can be reached at our email, before or after lectures, and during her ZAP hours.

Your **ZAP teaching assistants** are a free tutoring service offered by the Department of Zoology. They are highly experienced undergraduate teaching assistants and volunteers. The hours that tutors will be available will be posted once their own schedules are determined (during the second week of the semester). The schedules will be announced in class and will be posted outside the Zoology Advising Office (Richards, room 209).

***When and where does class meet?***

When you sign up for the Intro Zoo lecture, you sign up for section 1 or 2. Both meet at the same time on Tuesdays and Thursdays (10:30-11:45 in Dale Hall 200). They meet separately on Wednesday (Section 1 at 10:30-11:20, Section 2 at 2:30-3:30). **You need to attend the W section too which you are assigned, as exams and graded exercises differ between the two W sections.**

***What do I need to buy?***

There are three books and one gadget you need for the course. Luckily, the books are short paperbacks. I selected them because they are interesting, topical, and fun to read...in short, not your typical doorstep of a textbook. They are available at the campus bookstore, or can be purchased online:

- 1) Coyne's "Why Evolution is True" (hardcover online \$18, campus bookstore paperback \$16)
- 2) Hoagland's "Exploring the Way Life Works" (new online \$100, or at the campus bookstore)
- 3) Schultz's "The Stuff of Life" (new online for \$10, or at the campus bookstore).
- 4) PRS Clicker from einstruction (\$39? new at the campus bookstore).

***What to expect in this class:***

- (1) All classroom experiences are associated with assigned readings and writing assignments. Thus is it important to do the reading/writing before coming to class.
- (2) Classroom activities will include lectures, videos, clicker quizzes, short writing assignments, and class discussion. Attendance is required.
- (3) Short online writing assignments will ask you to apply what you learned, and discuss classmate responses, in an online forum.

- (4) We will use the electronic classroom response system, also known as “clicker technology”. This technology allows me to take quizzes in class and get feedback from you. Plan to bring your “clicker” (officially known as a “response pad”) to class every day and keep it in good condition. **We will not grant excuses on clicker quizzes**, as the single biggest reason for “malfunctioning clickers” is sitting too far in the back of the auditorium, dead batteries, or clickers that have been dropped once too often.
- (5) Expect to be called on by name as part of class discussion and review exercises.
- (6) There will be occasional extra credit exercises asking you to apply and extend what you have learned in fairly non-traditional ways.

#### **Our two major goals for IntroZoo 1114**

- 1) To teach what science is and how scientists think.
- 2) To show how molecular biology, genetics, evolution and ecology are the foundations of modern biology.

#### **Our two major expected outcomes for folks taking Intro Zoo1114**

- 1) A deep understanding of the basic tools of science and how they work to solve problems.
- 2) A deep understanding of the great challenges and opportunities facing humanity and their biological basis.

### **COURSE ELECTRONICS, OR WELCOME TO THE INFORMATION AGE:**

This class uses two forms of information technology. These technological features include a classroom response system and Desire-2-Learn (a Course Management Software system). Please get up to speed on these systems as quickly as you can; they’re not particularly difficult, but you will need access to the Internet in order to use them.

#### **Classroom Response System (CRS):**

In addition to a textbook, you will need a classroom response pad, or “clicker” for this section. The pads are sold separately in the bookstores. Your pad must be registered with your student ID number in order to participate in this class. It is an easy process and may be done outside of class. Instructions for registering are provided in the “content” section of our course D2L site.

#### **Course Management Software (CMS):**

The course home online is Desire 2 Learn (<http://learn.ou.edu>). Through the course website, you will receive reading assignments, do online writing assignments (and comment on others), monitor your grade and the course calendar, and ask questions on the course blog. I will make a set of diagrams for you to bring to lectures that are available by Friday 6:00PM of the previous week. Note that I structure the course content, delivery speed, and class exercises around these diagrams, so they are a key part of your learning experience.

To logon you use your 4+4 and your OUNet password. Your 4+4 is the first four letters of your last name plus the last four numbers of your OU student ID number (e.g. KASP1234). If a user's last name contains less than four letters, all the letters are used in the OUNetID - the OUNetID is simply shorter.

Desire 2 Learn also allows *me* to email *you* with important announcements and, grade information, etc. **However, this website only knows the email registered in your name at the University of Oklahoma.** If you use a different Internet Service Provider for email, you need to notify OU or I will not be able to reach you. Luckily, this is easy to do. Go to <http://account.ou.edu> or call them at 325-4636.

#### Attendance:

Attendance is required and accounts for about 10% of your final grade. The quickest way to get into grade trouble in a large university class is to quit coming to class. You are responsible for all of the material presented in lecture and assigned from the text. Tape recorders are permitted. **I will take attendance daily through use of the CRS – based quizzes**

#### Questions in class:

Questions are expected. Also, someone please raise his or her hand and tell me to slow down, spell words, or repeat if I am going too rapidly. You can also post questions to the course blog on D2L.

#### Grading:

Your grades are calculated on the following basis:

(1) Hour exams – five @ 120 points each	= 600 points
(2) Final exam – one @ 200 points	= 250 points
(3) Written assignments 5 @ 10 points	= 50 points
(4) Attendance/in-class quizzes	= 100 points
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>= 1000 points</b>

Hour exams: Every third Wednesday or so (see schedule below) we will have a short midterm exam of 12 multiple-choice questions. Each Wednesday section will have its own version of the exam. **In these classes there will be assigned seating.** I will take at least one exam question from the question banks posted on the Desire-2-Learn web site. You will have 30 minutes to take this exam. Many/most of you will finish in less than 30 minutes, but we want to give everybody a chance to show up for the exam before we collect them, **so everybody has to wait at least 30 minutes before leaving the exam.** Likewise, **if you show up later than 30 minutes to class, this counts as a missed exam (see below).** After Exam 1, every subsequent exam will have two questions dedicated to material from the previous exam, usually focusing on material the most folks had trouble with.

Quizzes: In-class clicker quizzes worth a few points (and ultimately adding up to 100, see above) will be given in most classes.

Mini-essays: At least five times through the semester, I will post a writing assignment due on Desire 2 Learn. This assignment will typically require you to write a short paragraph of 100-200 words, post it to our discussion forum, and read and comment on at least one of your colleague's mini-essays.

Grading scale: The class average is middle C. I reserve the right to scale grades up if the class average falls below 75%. If the class average is 75% or higher, then an

approximate standard scale applies (90% = A, 80% = B, etc.). If you end up with 900 points I will give you an “A;” with 800 points you are guaranteed at least a “B;” etc.

“Redemption Policy”: Because everyone has a bad day once in a while we have built into the grading system a way to “redeem” a low midterm exam score. The final exam will include material covered after the fifth midterm as well as material comprehensive to the entire course. The comprehensive portion will be divided into six sections, representing material relevant to each section of lecture. Should your percentage score on any one of section 1-5 be higher than your percentage score on the corresponding midterm, we will adjust your midterm grade up to the higher percentage. *We will, however, only grant you one improvement – and we will make sure it is your biggest among the five midterms.*

Makeup exams: I give no makeup exams. It is therefore crucial that you attend all scheduled examinations. If for some unforeseen reason you are unable to attend a midterm exam, an “a” (for absent) will be marked in the grade book for that exam. Your grade for the missed exam will then be determined based on your performance on the relevant material in the comprehensive portion of the final exam. **So a missed exam basically uses your one Redemption. If you miss an exam, you cannot take advantage of the improvement policy described above.** This policy applies for only one missed exam; a grade of zero will be recorded for any additional missed exams. If you miss class because of athletic competition or other university sanctioned event, I need to have the letter from your coach and I need to be reminded of that letter frequently and as the semester nears its end.

Extra credit: I will provide a number of opportunities for extra credit, which will appear as points simply added to your total.

#### **Study hints:**

- (1) Make a vocabulary list. Flash cards are amazingly useful tools in this regard.
- (2) Find a study partner, or several, and use the vocabulary in your daily conversation.
- (3) Use all the resources available, especially those on Desire-2-Learn and the Zap Room. DON'T feel embarrassed if you are not doing as well as you think you should be; seek help.
- (4) Read your textbooks with a highlighter. Pay particular attention to the first, or topic, sentence, and the last, or summary, sentence.

**About your instructor:**

Dr. Michael Kaspari  
 Presidential Professor, University of Oklahoma  
 BS in Life Sciences (1983), MS in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (1985) from the University of Nebraska; PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (1992) from the University of Arizona; post-doctoral research, University of Texas-Austin (1992-1993), University of Guelph (1993), Lawrence Livermore National Labs (1994-1995).

Research interests: Global ecology, tropical ecology, invertebrates of the brown (litter) food web, with a particular fondness for ants. There are usually 2-3 graduate students and 1-3 undergraduates doing research in my lab.

Web site: [http://faculty-staff.ou.edu/K/Michael.E.Kaspari-1/AntLab\\_Home.htm](http://faculty-staff.ou.edu/K/Michael.E.Kaspari-1/AntLab_Home.htm)

**LECTURE SCHEDULE**

Section	Topic	Dates	Exam
1	Science and evolutionary biology	Jan 17- Feb 7	<b>Feb 8</b>
2	The chemistry of life	Feb 9 - 28	<b>Feb 29</b>
3	The diversity and ecology of life	March 1 - 13	<b>March 14</b>
4	The multiplication of cells: sex and cancer	March 27-April 10	<b>April 11</b>
5	DNA and how it works	April 17 - 24	<b>April 25</b>
6	Neurobiology and the mind	April 26-May3	

**Final Exam is Tuesday, 8 May, from 8-10AM.**

**Other Important Information**

**Reasonable Accommodation:** Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities.

**Academic Misconduct:** Academic misconduct includes cheating, plagiarism, falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidation, and any other action that may improperly affect the evaluation of your performance. It also includes assisting others in any such act or attempts to engage in such acts. Penalties may include grade penalties and disciplinary action from the University's Academic Misconduct Board. For more on academic misconduct, visit the following website: [http://integrity.ou.edu/files/Academic\\_Misconduct\\_Code.pdf](http://integrity.ou.edu/files/Academic_Misconduct_Code.pdf).