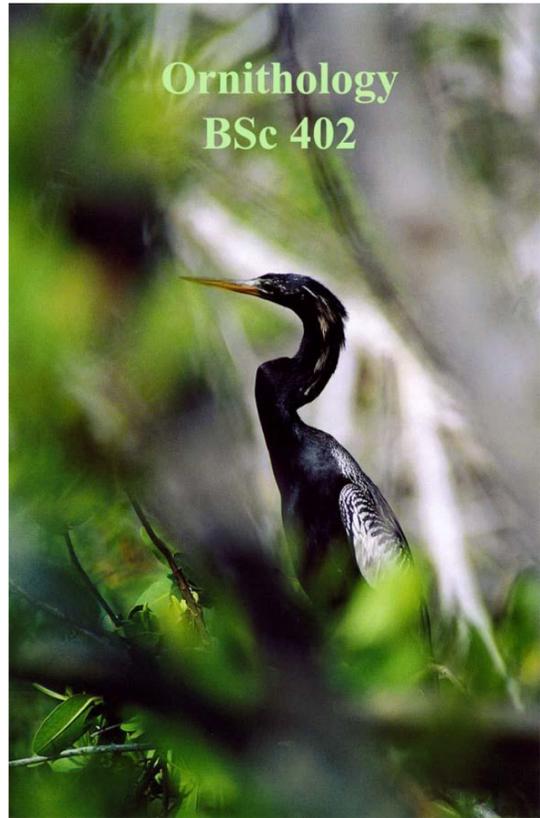


# Dr. Jeff Kopachena

Keith D. McFarland Science Building Rm 258

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Office hours: MWF 10:00 - 11:00



## Textbook: (optional)

Gill, F.B. 2007. Ornithology. 3rd Edition. W.H. Freeman & Co. New York. 763 pp.

## iClickers: (required)

The iClicker student response system in this class this term. The iClicker is being used to facilitate student engagement and to assist in formative assessment of student cognition. The iClicker will not be used to keep track of attendance; please see the attendance policy on below. Participation with iClicker will account for 5% of your final grade.

**iClickers are available for checkout at the Gee Library.**

## Student Responsibilities:

You are required to bring your device to every class period and make sure that is charged, connected, and in proper working order at all times. If your device is dead or not properly connected, you will not earn points towards your grade.

Students are required to bring their iClickers to every lecture. The iClickers will be used for in-class quizzes and to encourage class participation and discussions. Participation points will be calculated based on whether or not you answered questions, but will not be based on whether or not you got the correct answers. Class results of these quizzes will be displayed on the projection screen in class. However, individual responses to all questions will be entirely confidential.

You are required to register your device.

## How to register:

In-class quizzes will begin in the second week of classes. Therefore, to receive credit for the responses you submit with iClicker, you must register before Monday, January 20, 2014. Students who register after this time will not receive credit for participation in class quizzes for which they have an unregistered clicker.

**Register your clicker @ <http://www1.iclicker.com/register-student-remote>**

You must register your clicker on iclicker.com. Use your CWID in the student ID field. This will allow me to match your responses with your name. If you make a mistake registering, just register again—the correct information will take precedence. *You must have come to class at least once and voted on at least one question in order to complete this registration properly.*

**Lost or Damaged Devices:** If device is lost/stolen/damaged the student will have to:

- 1) Notify instructor immediately.
- 2) Provide written documentation of the situation to the instructor.
- 3) Contact the Library.
- 4) The Library will automatically place hold/fine on student's account

## End of Semester Procedure:

Devices are to be checked back into the library no later than the Friday before final exams. Devices that are not checked back in will result in a hold being placed on the student's account.

## Cheating

Bringing a fellow student's iClicker to class is cheating and a violation of the University Honor Code. If you are caught with a remote other than your own or have votes in a class that you did not attend, you will forfeit all clicker points and may face additional disciplinary action.



**Course Synopsis:**

The objective of this course is to provide students with a thorough understanding of the origins and biology of birds. The lectures cover the following topics:

- evolutionary origins
- avian classification (Avian Orders)
- avian anatomy and physiology
- feathers and flight
- respiration, circulation, digestion, and metabolism
- neural anatomy and physiology
- reproductive anatomy and physiology
- avian behavior and communication
- avian migration, territorial and social behavior
- avian reproduction and development
- population dynamics and conservation



**Student Learning Objectives (SLO's)**

1. Students will know the names and characteristics of the 40 currently recognized living orders of birds.
2. Students will know the current knowledge regarding the evolutionary history of birds.
3. Students will know the fundamentals of avian anatomy and physiology.
4. Students will have knowledge of the physiological basis of avian behavior and annual cycles.
5. Students will have knowledge of avian reproduction and modes of development.

**Grading Scheme (all dates subject to change)**

	Percent of final grade	Due Date
Quizzes (7 @ 1 % each)	7	TBA
Test 1	15	Feb. 28
Test 2	15	Apr 4
Test 3	15	May 2
Final Exam	25	TBA
Essay Outline	3	Mar. 21
Essay	15	May 2
Participation	5	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100</b>	



**Quizzes:**

This course covers a lot of material. To help keep you up to date on your studying there will be quizzes approximately every two weeks. These quizzes must be completed online in eCollege on the assigned date. They will consist of 10 multiple choice questions and you will have 10 minutes to complete them. To do well in these quizzes you must be familiar with the material and must ensure that you have your lecture notes in front of you at the time that you write the quiz. You will only have one or two days notice of when a quiz will be due, so be sure to keep up with your notes.



**Tests:**

There will be three tests during the semester. Each is worth 15% of your final grade and will be composed of 30 multiple choice questions based on the lecture material. Unlike the quizzes, the tests will be taken in class and you will not have the powerpoints available for consultation. Therefore, to do well on the tests, you must study and know the lecture material ahead of time.

**Final Exam:**

The final exam for this class is comprehensive, including all of the material covered over the course the semester. It will be taken during finals week and will consist of 100 multiple choice questions based on the lecture material. Unlike the quizzes, the final will be taken in class and you will not have the powerpoints available for consultation. Therefore, to do well on the test, you must study and know the lecture material ahead of time.

**Notes about Essay Assignment:**

You will be expected to write a detailed account on a specific research topic that deals directly with birds (you must narrow your topic to deal with a specific aspect of avian research).

**DO NOT WRITE A PAPER OVER A SINGLE SPECIES OR GROUP OF SPECIES**

Scan through current scientific journals for potential essay topics. Suggested journals to look through are: Auk, Animal Behavior, Condor, Wilson Journal of Ornithology, and Avian Biology. You may find others useful as well. The sources used in your paper must come from primary journal articles and the majority of them must be less than 10 years old. Do not use any non-refereed journals (e.g. Time magazine, National Geographic, or any other magazine that does not provide bibliographic information and source references). You will find that your textbook is an excellent starting point for looking for an essay topic. There are also a number of excellent books in the library. These books will provide references for you to follow up the topic with, but don't forget to consult more current sources using the library facilities. You should also make full use of the indexing services offered by the library. Google Scholar is also a good place to look. Make sure your topic can be adequately written within the page limit of the assignment (essay should be 10 - 15 pages and should, therefore, include a minimum of 10 - 15 peer-reviewed sources). If you have even the slightest doubt about the suitability of a topic, do not hesitate to consult me.

**Essay Outline:**

About halfway through the semester you will turn in a point by point outline of the major topics to be discussed in your paper. The outline will be worth a portion of your final grade, should be 2 - 5 pages in length, and should include at least 5 major references cited in typical scientific format (the outline will serve as guide for you when researching your paper and will allow me to assess the suitability of your topic).

**Essay:**

Your final paper must be 10-15 pages, double-spaced, using 12 point Times New Roman font with 1" margins. You will lose points for failing to properly cite sources of information. You must cite all sources of information including sources used for figures and tables.

Copying of material, whether parts of sentences, whole

sentences, paragraphs, or entire articles, will result in a score of zero for your essay.

There should be at least 1 peer-reviewed reference per typewritten page (i.e. if you write a 20 page essay you should have about 20 different sources of information). Cite all references in the body of your paper and in a literature cited section at the back. Use scientific journal format. Consult a journal (e.g. Auk, Condor, Animal Behavior) or consult me to see how this is done. Make the fullest possible use of the library facilities. Use only current references from primary sources if possible. Use ample figures and tables (figures and tables do not count in determining the length of the paper but contribute significantly to determining how well you do on your paper). Do not use direct quotes (you will lose points for doing so). Your essay grade will be based largely on how thoroughly you have covered your topic. Therefore, be very concise and avoid verbosity, redundancy, or obfuscatory scribbling. Pay attention to your spelling and grammar. If you have questions, please talk to me.



#### **Participation:**

Students are required to bring their iClickers to every lecture. The iClickers will be used for in-class quizzes and to encourage class participation and discussions. Participation points will be calculated based on whether or not you answered questions, but will not be based on whether or not you got the correct answers. Class results of these quizzes will be displayed on the projection screen in class. However, individual responses to all questions will be entirely confidential.

#### **Obligatory Statements:**

**Plagiarism** is a criminal activity. You must cite all sources of information. Copying of material, whether parts of sentences, whole sentences, paragraphs, or entire articles, will result in a score of zero for your assignment and can result in further disciplinary action.

#### **Students with Disabilities:**

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**

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library Rm. 132

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

**Fax (903) 468-8148**

**Email: [StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)**

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

