

Course Syllabus:
Crane Ecology BIOL 832-01, 1 credit
Fall 2021

Instructor:

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NOTE: Email is my preferred method of contact if you inquire about a personal issue. General questions about the course can be posted on the Frequently Asked Questions Discussion Board in Canvas.

Office Hours:

Mon 9-10am, Wed 8-10am and 2-3pm, or by appointment. Please email me to set up a time to meet and we can set up a time to do a zoom or phone call.

University Policies Related to COVID-19: The university community is deeply concerned for the well-being of its students, faculty, and staff. Keeping each other as safe as possible will require commitment from each of us; failure to do so will literally place lives in danger. The full policy relating to mitigation of the spread of infectious diseases can be found at <https://www.unk.edu/coronavirus/>.

- Students who have had contact with positive-tested individuals or show COVID-19 related symptoms must have clearance from the UNK Public Health Center (PHC) prior to returning to face-to-face classes. The UNK Public Health Center can be contacted at 308-865-8279 or unkhealth@unk.edu.
- The student must immediately contact the UNK PHC, which will review symptoms, and provide quarantine or isolation direction as appropriate.
- UNK PHC will provide the student with documentation that must be shared with class instructors. This documentation includes the beginning and end dates for quarantine or isolation.
- In order for the student to return to the classroom, they must receive clearance from the UNK PHC. Students will not be allowed back into the classroom without the proper documentation and can be prohibited from participating in an alternative fashion.
- **Dr. Reichart will not accept emails about COVID-19 from your personal doctor or any other PHC. It MUST come from the UNK PHC. NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- Students will still be responsible for course content missed due to COVID-19 illness.

Course Description: This course is an in-depth study of the behavior and ecology of cranes. Assigned readings from the scientific literature, one writing assignment and online discussions will be used to explore a variety of topics including: reproductive biology, wintering ecology, migratory behavior, conservation and management of cranes. Plan to spend at least several hours each week on reading, writing, and responding to topic discussions.

Course Objectives:

1. Learn to obtain and evaluate scientific research articles from the primary
2. Examine and discuss four major components of crane biology for two North American Crane species (Sandhill Cranes and Whooping Cranes)
3. Identify differences in conducting research for an abundant vs. an endangered species
4. Propose a novel research idea, based on a focused review of one aspect of crane biology

Instructor Role: As your instructor students will receive individual feedback for specific assignments (see assignment list below). Second, I will assign peer-reviewed research articles for discussion and provide clarification for questions posed by student groups as a result of your discussion. I will respond to every email sent from student UNKlopermail accounts, you can expect a response to your emails within 24 hours of sending, Monday-Friday. However, emails sent on the weekends (or late on Friday) will not be seen until Monday morning.

NO Required Texts: All readings, assignments, and information will be available online.

Optional Texts (Not required for the course, but may be of personal interest to students): "Crane Music: A natural History of American Cranes" by Paul A. Johnsgard
"On Ancient Wings: The Sandhill Cranes of North America" by Michael Forsberg (This book is fantastic, because it discusses general information about Sandhill Cranes and the photography is absolutely stunning!)

Required Equipment/Hardware/Software:

1. Webcam (e.g., built-in to your personal computer or as an external plugin)
2. Students should refer to the following eCampus website to make sure you meet the minimum hardware/software and internet connection speed required by all UNK eCampus students.

eCampus requirements: https://canvas.unk.edu/courses/25822/pages/minimum-computer-requirements?module_item_id=525687

NOTE: Microsoft Office Word is the only acceptable word processing software for this course (All other file formats are unacceptable for submitting online documents). This software is available for download with your Office365 account.

Please go to the following link to learn more about getting setup with appropriate software.

http://www.unk.edu/offices/its/instructional_technology/office365_unk_email/index.php

Academic Integrity: UNK's Policy is the maintenance of academic honesty and integrity is a vital concern of the University community. Any student found in violation of the standards of academic honesty shall be subject to both academic and disciplinary sanctions. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: Cheating, Fabrication and Falsification, Plagiarism, and Other Acts of Academic Dishonesty. You are expected to uphold the UNK standard of Student Conduct relating to Academic Integrity. You assume full responsibility for the content and integrity of the work you submit. Academic integrity will be strongly enforced in this course and plagiarism will not be tolerated. All assignments will be scanned through Turnitin via Canvas. **Students who plagiarize any part of their writing assignments will fail this course.**

Class Participation: Regular participation each week is important for successful completion of this course. The student is expected to complete coursework by the assignment deadlines. Reasons for not completing assigned work on time may include: illness, hospitalization, injury, family emergency, or other situations that cannot be avoided; however, documentation for incomplete work must be provided to the instructor. Negotiations may be made at time of occurrence, if the reason for missing an assignment deadline is acceptable in the opinion of the instructor. **Students must contact the instructor prior to missing a scheduled coursework!**

Grading System: Grades will be determined according to the following scheme:

	Assignments	Points
1	Personal Introduction	20
2	Group - Discussions (4 discussions, 10pts each)	40
3	Group - Proposed topics assignments (4)	40
4	Group - Draft Short Research Proposal	30
6	Peer Reviews (2 reviews, 10pts each)	20
7	Group - Final Revised Research Proposal	50
Total Course Points		200

Grading Scale:

93 - 100 % = A	78 - 79 % = C+	60 - 62 % = D-
90 - 92 % = A-	73 - 77 % = C	59% or less = F
88 - 89 % = B+	70 - 72 % = C-	
83 - 87 % = B	68 - 69 % = D+	
80 - 82 % = B-	63 - 67 % = D	

Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of the University of Nebraska at Kearney to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to students with documented disabilities. To receive accommodation services for a disability, students must be registered with the UNK Disabilities Services for Students (DSS) office, 175 Memorial Student Affairs Building, 308-865-8214 or by email unkdso@unk.edu

UNK Statement of Diversity & Inclusion:

UNK stands in solidarity and unity with our students of color, our LatinX and international students, our LGBTQIA+ students and students from other marginalized groups in opposition to racism and prejudice in any form, wherever it may exist. It is the job of institutions of higher education, indeed their duty, to provide a haven for the safe and meaningful exchange of ideas and to support peaceful disagreement and discussion. In our classes, we strive to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication and mutual respect. UNK does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, disability or political affiliation. Respect for the diversity of our backgrounds and varied life experiences is essential to learning from our similarities as well as our differences. The following link provides resources and other information regarding

D&I: <https://www.unk.edu/about/equity-access-diversity.php>

Students Who are Pregnant

It is the policy of the University of Nebraska at Kearney to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to students who are pregnant. To receive accommodation services due to pregnancy, students must contact Cindy Ferenc in Student Health, 308-865-8219. The following link provides information for students and faculty regarding pregnancy rights. <http://www.nwlc.org/resource/pregnant-and-parenting-students-rights-faqs-college-and-graduate-students>

Reporting Student Sexual Harassment, Sexual Violence or Sexual Assault

Reporting allegations of rape, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and stalking enables the University to promptly provide support to the impacted student(s), and to take appropriate action to prevent a recurrence of such sexual misconduct and protect the campus community. Confidentiality will be respected to the greatest degree possible. Any student who believes she or he may be the victim of sexual misconduct is encouraged to report to one or more of the following resources: **Local Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault Advocacy Agency** 308-237-2599; **Campus Police (or Security)** 308-865-8911; **Title IX Coordinator** 308-865-8655

Retaliation against the student making the report, whether by students or University employees, will not be tolerated.

If you have questions regarding the information in this email please contact **Mary Chinnock Petroski, Chief Compliance Officer** (petroskimj@unk.edu or phone 8400).

Veterans Services: UNK works diligently to support UNK's military community by providing military and veteran students and families with resources and services to help them succeed. Veterans Services assists with the GI Bill process and acts as a liaison between the student and the Veterans Administration. If you need assistance or would like more information, please contact Lori Weed Skarka at 308-865-8520 or unkveterans@unk.edu.

Class Schedule and Assignments: A general class schedule can be found below. New assignment information will be posted Tuesday by 5pm CST. For general lecture topics, there will be recorded video lecture(s) in some weeks. In addition, readings from the primary literature will be assigned for four live Zoom group discussions. There will be one major writing assignment, group research proposal, as a part of this course. Due dates must be followed and assignments are due by **midnight CST** on the date given, specific dates will be specified when the assignment is posted. For assignments turned in late a penalty of 5 points per day will be deducted until the assignment is no longer worth any points.

Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify the class schedule and assignments if necessary; however, students will be informed of minor modifications via Canvas announcements.

Expectations: Students are expected to keep up with assigned course material and are responsible for checking announcements and assignments each week. All grades will be based on participation and the quality of the assignment or group discussion. There will be **four group discussion and one group activity throughout the course**. During the first week of class, you will be assigned to a discussion group of 3-4 students, based on shared availability indicated on a When is Good Survey (link available on the course Canvas page). During weeks in which groups are assigned to discuss a paper, you will be required to schedule at least 40 minutes with your group to discuss and record a group discussion over assigned reading from the primary literature. Each student must prepare for the discussion by carefully reading the paper(s) prior to the group discussion and prepare some questions for discussion by the group. Once your group identifies the meeting time and zoom link when you will meet, **you must share the meeting information (including zoom link) with the instructor.** If I am also available at the same time, I will join your group discussion that week.

Finally, during discussions I expect students to use appropriate language (e.g., profanity and derogatory comments are unacceptable), to respect differences in opinion, and to show evidence of knowledge on the subject matter (i.e., gleaned from assigned reading and/or lectures)

NOTE: Topics and Assignments are subject to change at the instructor's discretion. Class readings and readings from the primary literature will be made available on the Course Webpage.

Table 1: Class Schedule & Assignments

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC (S)	DISCUSSION/ASSIGNMENTS
1	Aug 23-29	Introduction to cranes, Accessing the UNK Library, finding primary literature;	Personal introductions (Introductory Activities); When is Good Survey DUE Sat. Aug 28 th , midnight CST
2	Aug 30 - Sept. 5	Crane Reproductive Biology;	Module 2 - Reading 1, Group Discussion 1, - Proposed reproductive biology topics of interest DUE Tues. Sept. 7 th , midnight CST
3	Sept. 6-12	Migration	Module 3 - Reading 2, Group Discussion 2 - Proposed migration topics of interest DUE Tues. Sept. 14 th , midnight CST
4	Sept. 13 -19	Crane Wintering Ecology/Behavior	Module 4 - Reading 3, Group Discussion 3 - Proposed wintering ecology/behavior topics of interest DUE Tues. Sept. 21 st , midnight CST
5	Sept. 20-26	Crane Conservation & Management	Module 5 - Reading 4, Group Discussion 4 - Proposed conservation/management topics of interest DUE Tues. Sept. 28 th , midnight CST
6	Sept. 27- Oct. 3	Scientific Application: Draft Research Proposal	-Outline Draft Research Proposal DUE Oct 5th
7	Oct. 4 -10	Scientific Application: Draft Research Proposal	-Draft Research Proposal DUE Oct 12
8	Oct. 11 -17	Critique Peer Research Proposals	Peer Reviews DUE Oct. 20 th , midnight CST
9	Oct. 18-24	Final Revised Research Proposal	-Final Revised Research Proposal DUE Friday, Nov 2 nd , midnight CST