CRANE ECOLOGY	**Department of Biology**
BIOL 832 (Section 01), 1 credit	**College of Arts and Sciences**
Fall 2023	**University of Nebraska at Kearney**

LECTURE MEETING TIME AND LOCATION:
Online

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Dr. Letty M. Reichart, Professor
Office: BHS 318
Office hours: Mondays, 3:30-4:30pm; Wednesdays, 1:20-2:20pm; Fridays, 11am-noon and 1:30-2:30pm; or by appointment
Office phone: (308) 865-8568
Email: reichartlm@unk.edu or through Canvas

COURSE WEBSITE: See Canvas course page (http://canvas.unk.edu)
***You can also install the Mobile App for Apple or Android.*

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 participating in topic discussions. Offered online, Fall of odd-numbered years.

PREREQUISITES: None

INSTRUCTIONAL METHOD: In this class, we will combine lectures with readings from the scientific literature to introduce students to the biology of North American crane species. We will have group discussions of the scientific literature and students will work in groups to create a research proposal on a topic related to crane biology.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of this course, students will:

1. Learn to obtain and evaluate scientific research articles from the primary literature
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

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Students are required to observe and take notes on lectures and read scientific literature prior to participating in group discussions. *All deadlines will be communicated in Canvas.*

ATTENDANCE POLICY:
No formal attendance will be taken in this course, but regular participation in course activities each week is required. If you must miss a class deadline, please contact the instructor **no later than 36 HOURS before** (if you know you'll be unable to participate) or **within 24 HOURS after** the missed assignment (if the absence was unanticipated). I may be able to offer an alternative assignment, but this is not guaranteed. Please do not schedule other life events on top of weekly allocated time for this course.

MISSED ASSIGNMENTS OR OTHER ASSESSMENTS AND MAKE-UP POLICY:
Any and all assessments in this class *MUST* be submitted or completed by the deadlines described in Canvas. This helps your instructor manage grading and ensure that your assessments are returned back to you as soon as possible. If we have not discussed missing an assignment or discussion, you will receive a **zero** on any relevant assessments. **Please note that computer emergencies (e.g., printer ran out of ink, hard drive crashed, etc.)** *may not be* **considered an excuse. You should plan to have an alternative means of accessing or submitting electronic information and course work.**

Again, if you must miss class for any reason, please contact the instructor **no later than 36 HOURS before** (if you know you will be unable to participate) or **within 24 HOURS after** the missed assignment (if the absence was unanticipated) to make new arrangements. I may be able to offer an alternative, but this is not guaranteed.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:
A webcam (e.g., built-in to your personal computer or as an external plugin), working microphone and speakers are required for this course. Students will need to participate in some zoom meetings and or post video recordings. Students should refer to the following UNK Online Student website to make sure you meet the minimum hardware/software and internet connection speed required by all UNK online students.

> UNK Online Student 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

There are no required textbooks for this course. All other learning materials required will be provided on our Canvas course page.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT: LoperTECH Service Desk
                        Phone: 308-865-8363   Email: support@nebraska.edu

If you are having problems or technical issues with Canvas, please contact ITS. Note that Canvas is most compatible with Firefox or Google Chrome. If you are using a Mac and the Safari browser, try using one of the other two browsers to navigate Canvas first before contacting ITS.

TECHNOLOGY
This class requires the use of a computer, the internet, Canvas, etc.

GRADING POLICY: Below is a roughly estimated breakdown of the assignments and points for the course. Please note that these points may be subject to change but that those changes will be communicated with you in a timely fashion. Grades will be entered in Canvas so you should be aware of where you stand throughout the semester.

Grade Item	Points
Personal Introduction (20pts) & When is Good Survey (10pts)	30
Reading Reflections (4, 10 pts each)	40
Group – Discussions (4 discussions, 20pts each)	80
Group – Proposed topics assignments (4, 10pts each)	40
Group – Final Proposed Topic	10
Group – Outline of Proposed Research Proposal	20
Group – Draft Short Research Proposal	50
Peer Reviews (2 reviews, 10pts each)	20
Group – Final Revised Research Proposal	100
TOTAL	**390**

Assigning letter grades at the end of the semester: Grades in this class will be assigned according to the standard UNK scoring system described below. Only by attaining these percentages can you be assured of receiving a desired grade.

A+	97 – 100%	A	94 – 96 %	A-	90 – 93%
B+	87 – 89%	B	84 – 86%	B-	80 – 83%
C+	77 – 79%	C	74 – 76%	C-	70 – 73%
D+	67 – 69 %	D	60 – 64%	D-	60 – 63%
		F	< 60%		

Please note: If your final grade is within 0.5% of the next highest grade, your grade will be rounded up (e.g., an 89.50% will be considered an "A-"). ***This is the definitive cutoff for rounding grades.*** *There will be **NO exceptions** to this policy.*

PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:
Plagiarism is defined as using more than four consecutive words form a source without a citation. You may not use another's words directly without putting them within quotations. It is also plagiarism when either an author's ideas or organization of concepts are used without giving a citation. Students caught plagiarizing will receive a failing grade for the assignment and will face additional punishments up to expulsion as outlined by University policy. I invite you to visit the online resource http://www.plagiarism.org/ to make sure you understand what plagiarism is and how to avoid it.

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 308-865-8677 or unkveterans@unk.edu.

THE LEARNING COMMONS:
Learning Commons services are available in person and on Zoom for all online and on-campus UNK students. To request an appointment for subject tutoring, writing tutoring, success coaching, or foreign language support, please submit an Appointment Request Form on the Learning Commons website (https://www.unk.edu/offices/learning_commons/index.php), call the Learning Commons Welcome Desk at 308-865-8905, or stop by the Welcome Desk in person on the second floor of the Calvin T. Ryan Library. To submit a draft of your writing for a tutor to review, go to the Writing Center webpage (https://www.unk.edu/offices/learning_commons/writing-center.php

UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

ATTENDANCE POLICY:
Your instructor may have indicated on their syllabus an attendance policy specific to their class. If so, that is the policy with which you must comply. If no other policy is stated, the University-wide attendance policy will apply.

- Graduate Student Attendance Policy: https://catalog.unk.edu/graduate/academics/academic-regulations/expectations-in-the-classroom/class-attendance/

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:
Academic honesty is essential to the existence and integrity of an institution of higher education. The responsibility for maintaining that integrity is shared by all members of the academic community. To further serve this end, the University of Nebraska at Kearney has a policy relating to academic integrity.

Graduate Academic Integrity Policy: https://catalog.unk.edu/graduate/academics/academic-regulations/expectations-in-the-classroom/academic-integrity-policy/

FINALS WEEK POLICY:

The final exam will be administered in the time period scheduled during finals week in accordance with University policy (Final Exam Schedule). More information about UNK's Finals Week Policy, including when it is appropriate to ask for special accommodations to move a course's final exam, can be found here: Finals Week Policy.

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.

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.

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 the Student Health office at 308.865.8218. The following links provide information for students and faculty regarding pregnancy rights.
https://thepregnantscholar.org/title-ix-basics/

https://nwlc.org/resource/faq-pregnant-and-parenting-college-graduate-students-rights/.

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.

CALENDAR: Please note that this schedule may be subject to change. Assigned readings are noted for each topic.

Week	Date	Topic(s)	Discussion/Assignments
1	8/21 - 8/27	Introduction to cranes, Accessing the UNK Library, finding primary literature	Personal Introductions; When is Good Survey
2	8/28 - 9/3	Crane Reproductive Biology; Possible reproductive biology topics of interest	Lecture & Assigned Reading(s) 1
3	9/4 – 9/10	Crane Reproductive Biology Discussion	Group Discussion 1; Proposed Research Topics Crane Reproductive Biology
4	9/11 – 9/17	Migration; Possible migration topics of interest	Lecture & Assigned Reading(s) 2
5	9/18 – 9/24	Migration Discussion	Group Discussion 2; Proposed Research Topics Migration
6	9/25 – 10/1	Crane Wintering Ecology/Behavior; Possible wintering ecology/behavior topics of interest	Lecture & Assigned Reading(s) 3
7	10/2 – 10/8	Crane Wintering Ecology/Behavior Discussion	Group Discussion 3; Proposed Research Topics wintering ecology/behavior
8	10/9 – 10/15	Crane Conservation & Management; Possible conservation/management topics of interest	Lecture & Assigned Reading(s) 4
9	10/16 – 10/22	Crane Conservation & Management Discussion	Group Discussion 4; Proposed Research Topics conservation/management
10	10/23 – 10/29	How to prepare a group research proposal; proposal outlines	Lecture
11	10/30 – 11/5	Group – Choose final topic for research proposals	Final Proposed Research Topic
12	11/6 – 11/12	Group – Outline of proposed research proposal	Outline of Research Proposal
13	11/13 – 11/19	Group – Draft of proposed research proposal	Draft Research Proposal
14	11/20 – 11/26	No Assignments – Thanksgiving Holiday	
15	11/27 – 12/3	Critique peer research proposals	Peer Reviews
16	12/4 – 12/10	Group - Final Revised Research Proposals	Final revised research proposals
17	12/11	Finals Week	Final class survey