

Approval Chart for Curriculum Changes

A = Approve I= Information Item¹ R= Advise & Respond²

Course Number **BIOL 370** _____ or Degree Plan(s) _____

State the requested change and reason. A memo may be attached if more space is necessary.

For approximately 25 years, Field Biology [BIOL 370] has been taught as an animal natural history course with special emphasis on field observation of birds. With two recently revised wildlife degree tracks in the Biology and the Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Departments, it has become necessary to more accurately describe the content of this course to students and wildlife professionals. Here we propose that the name be changed to 'Field Ornithology' with a catalog description that accurately discloses the emphasis on avian natural history and field research techniques as taught by current faculty.

Please find the course syllabus attached.

Due to changes in BIOL 112-115, the prerequisites must be changed as well.

Circle the number that corresponds to the requested change. Degree plan changes are on the second page.

		COUNCIL ³						
		Dept./School	College Academic	Deans	TEC	UGEC	UUAC	GRAD
Change to a Course								
1.	Title (description changed)	A	A	A		I		I
2.	Description (not affecting content)	A	A	A		I		I
3.	Course term(s)	A	I	A		I		I
4.	Content (substantive change)	A	A	A		I		A
5.	Number of hours (lecture, lab, contact)	A	A	A		A		A
6.	Course number within the hundred	A	A	I		I		I
7.	Course number beyond the hundred	A	A	A		A		A
8.	Prerequisites	A	A	A		I		I
9.	Course fee(s)	A	--	A		--		A
10.	From U to G or G to U	A	A	A		A		A
11.	Cross list with another department: U or G level	A	A	A		A		A
12.	Department of record	A	A	A		A		A
13.	Open or close a course	A	A	A		A		A
14.	New course — See website for application and process. This change includes combining or splitting a course(s).	A	A	A		A		A

Note: When an academic unit does not have a council, the UGEC and/or UUAC will serve as its academic council, depending on the nature of the issue.

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		COUNCIL ³										
	Change to a Degree Plan	Dept./School	College Academic	Deans	TEC	UGEC	UUAC	GRAD	Provost	Faculty	President	Board of Trustees
1.	University Requirements — Change in approved course content ⁶	A	A	A	A				A	--	A	--
2.	University Requirements — Add or drop a required course from the University Requirements chart ⁶	A	A	A	A				A	A	A	--
3.	University Requirements — Add or drop a course from a menu within the University Requirements ⁶	A	--	--	A				A	--	A	--
4.	University Requirements — Change hours within a menu on the University Requirements chart ⁶	A	A	A	A				A	A	A	--
5.	Major — Revision of major ^{4,5}	A	A	A	A				A	--	A	--
6.	Major — Adopt or change admission requirements	A	A	A	A				A	--	A	--
7.	Major — Add ^{4,5}	A	A	A	A				A	A	A	I
8.	Major – Discontinue (proposed by the department or college)	A	A	A	A				A	A	A	I
9.	Major – Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)	See below.										
10.	GPA — Revise major or cumulative requirement	A	A	A	A				A	A	A	--
11.	Minor — Revise course selection	A	A	A	I				I	--	I	--
12.	Minor — Add	A	A	A	A				A	--	A	--
13.	Minor – Discontinue (proposed by the department or college)	A	A	A	A				A	--	A	--
14.	Minor – Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)	See below.										
15.	Degree — Add	A	A	A	A				A	A	A	I
16.	Degree – Discontinue (proposed by the department or college)	A	A	A	A				A	A	A	I
17.	Degree – Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)	See below.										
18.	Any change to a graduate degree program	A	A	A	A				A	--	A	--

		COUNCIL ³								Board of Trustees
	Provost-Proposed Change	Provost	Department	Dean	TEC	UAC	Graduate	Faculty	President	
1.	Major/Graduate Program — Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)	A	R	R		A		A	A	I
2.	Minor — Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)	A	R	R		A		--	A	--
3.	Degree — Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)	A	R	R		A		A	A	I

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COUNCIL ³										
	Change to the Catalog Information	Dept./School	College Academic	Deans	UGEC	UUAC	GRAD	Provost	Faculty	President
1.	General requirements for graduation including course requirements that are common to all majors for all degrees ⁷	--	--	--	A			A	A	A
2.	Admission requirements	--	--	--	A			A	A	A
3.	Policies governing academic probation and suspension	--	--	--	A			A	A	A
4.	Requirements for graduating with honors	--	--	--	A			A	A	A

¹ Councils may request additional information about "Information" items. These items are approved as "Consent Agenda."

² The Dean and Department should respond to the Provost's recommendation to close a program in writing. Advise & Respond (R) requires that the voting body should receive the written responses at least one week prior to the vote.

³ All courses that meet University Requirements for general education must go through UGEC. Courses or degrees offered only to students seeking teacher certification must go through the Teacher Education Council. All undergraduate changes must go before the UUAC. All graduate degree plan changes must go through the Graduate Council.

⁴ A minimum of 30 hours is required for a major. A maximum is specified for each degree (e.g., BA, BS). The university minimum for elective hours is 6, unless the requirements of external accrediting bodies make it impossible.

⁵ Program or course changes that apply to any major that includes Teacher Certification will be reviewed by the college, the Teacher Education Council (TEC), and then the UUAC.

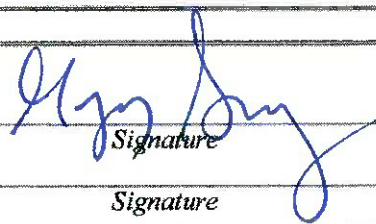
⁶ Courses that satisfy ACU's University Requirements (General Education) will normally have lower-level numbering, be free of prerequisites and co-requisites, appeal to more than one or two majors, and "not narrowly focus on those skills, techniques, and procedures specific to a particular occupation or profession" (SACS 2.7.3). Departments may request exceptions to the first three criteria.

⁷ The UUAC approved the clarification that "general requirements for graduation" means the enumerated items in the "General Requirements for Bachelor's Degrees" section of the catalog.

Revised 8-26-19

Department/School Chair(s)	
 Signature	22 Jan. 2020 Approval date
_____ Signature	_____ Approval date

College Academic Council(s)	
 Signature	2/21/2020 Approval date
_____ Signature	_____ Approval date

Dean(s)	
 Signature	3/17/2020 Approval date
_____ Signature	_____ Approval date

Teacher Education Council	
_____ Chair's signature	_____ Approval date

General Education Council	
_____ Chair's signature	_____ Approval date

Undergraduate Academic Council	
_____ Chair's signature	_____ Approval date

Graduate Council	
_____ Chair's signature	_____ Approval date

Provost	
_____ Signature	_____ Approval date

Faculty	
_____ Chair of faculty senate	_____ Approval date

President	
_____ Signature	_____ Approval date

Course Syllabus for Field Ornithology

BIOL 370.01 Summer I 2021

MTWR 8:00–11:50 am, Week 1&3

Onstead Science Center Room 215

MTWRFS 8:00 am–4:50 pm, Week 2

Lab will consist of travel to Corpus Christi, Texas.

Mission Statements:

ACU: The mission of Abilene Christian University is to educate students for Christian service and leadership throughout the world.

College of Arts and Sciences: The mission of the College of Arts and Sciences is to educate students for worldwide Christian service and leadership through programs of study and other learning experiences that blend a liberal arts education with professional and career education.

Biology Department: The Department of Biology educates students for Christian service and leadership by preparing them to become biological scientists, pre-college teachers, and health care professionals.

Instructor: Dr. Thomas E. Lee, Jr., Professor, Biology Office: Halbert-Walling, Room 202

Office Hours: 12–4 pm (T), 1–2 pm (W), 3–5 pm (F), or appointment*

Phone: 325-674-2574

E-mail: leet@acu.edu

*E-mails are welcome and are encouraged to schedule office hour appointments.

Course Description:

BIOL 370 Field Ornithology (3-3-4), summer, odd years. An introduction to bird identification and field research techniques. Lecture will cover avian diversity, behavior, and ecology. Field components of the course will train students in field methods, including identification, behavioral observations, and habitat measurements. Laboratory graded and credited with the course. **Prerequisite:** BIOL 121/BIOL 122 and BIOL 123/BIOL 124 with minimum grade of 'C' and consent of instructor. Special travel fee and lab fee.

Textbook: National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America, 7th edition, by Dunn and Alerfer (2017); **Equipment:** binoculars.

Purpose: This field oriented ornithology course is designed to introduce students to the diversity, morphology and behavior of birds of west-central and coastal Texas. Classes are conducted during the morning hours when resident, breeding birds are most active. We travel to many ecosystems and habitats areas (coastal salt marshes, riparian, prairie, wetland, etc.) to observe and understand as many bird species as possible. Bird skins in the Abilene Christian University Natural History Collection are also used to more closely identify and appreciate birds seen in the field. Examinations include questions about birds observed as well as those identified in the study collection.

Anticipated Outcomes and Competency Measures: This course introduces students to the patterns and processes of marine biodiversity and ecosystems with applications in careers in conservation and restoration biology, environmental engineering, natural resource management, and wildlife biology. Students will demonstrate 1) to recognize the birds of central and coastal Texas by sight and sound; 2) to learn and the diversity of ecological strategies pursued by these birds; 3) to learn and practice a variety of field techniques used for studying birds including census methods (point counts, transects, spot

mapping), nest monitoring, and behavioral observations; and 4) to keep an appropriately detailed field journal. Competency in these areas will be assessed by your performance on exams and field notes. Further information on each assessment method is given below.

Grade Assessment:

Grades	
Field Notes	(50%)
Midterm Exam	(25%)
Final Exam	(25%)

Grade Scale

A:	≥ 90%
B:	≥ 80%
C:	≥ 70%
D:	≥ 60%
F:	< 60%

Grades will be updated regularly on Canvas.

Lecture: Lecture meetings will be led by the instructor and cover the topics listed in the ‘Schedule.’

Schedule: * Any changes to schedule of topics will be communicated orally and/or in writing to students.

Week 1

Monday

Introduction to coastal Animals. This is a lab on the biodiversity of the area in which the field trip will take place. There will be a lecture on the Local Birds of these areas.

Tuesday

We will go over field notes: Bring the note book that you are going to take for your field notes. Introduction to field identification of birds (on campus).

Wednesday

Introduction to the equipment used in the field.

Thursday

Midterm Exam

Week 2

Monday

We will meet at 8:30 AM and depart for **Corpus Christi**.

Tuesday

We will bird Port Aransas, Mustang Island State Park.

Wednesday

Birds of the beach, mudflats and salt marsh.

Thursday

Pelagic Bird trip. South Padre Island National Seashore.

Friday

Marsh walk.

Saturday

Clean up and Drive home.

Week 3

Monday

Memorial Day holiday

Tuesday

Lecture on what we saw on the field trip. (Turn in field note books).

Wednesday

Birds of Abilene State Park and Bird the Park.

Thursday

Final Exam (on the trip and local parks)

Exams: Lecture exams will be taken on paper in class and will include short- and long- answer questions. See ‘Schedule’ for exam dates.

All exams should be taken when scheduled. Make-up tests will be given only to those who provide prompt (either before the test or by the next class meeting) and documented excuses for 1) illness (with doctor’s note), 2) death in immediate family (parents, siblings, grandparents; documentation required), or 3) official university business (with appropriate approvals).

The final will not be given early to any student for any reason. In order to make-up the final, you must have talked to me BEFORE missing the final so that we can make arrangements; and it must be for one of the three reasons listed above (you must have documentation!!). Under those circumstances, you may

take the final late. According to university policy, if a student misses a final test or examination with permission, the teacher will record an 'I' (incomplete) for the course grade. The final examination may be given at a later date (within the first 1/3 of the following semester) with permission from the college dean.

Field Travel: Field work and travel is an integral part of this class. If you cannot go on the trip, you must drop the class!

What to Bring:

Binoculars
Flashlight
Daypack
Knife
Money (you do not need any unless you want to buy personal items or souvenirs).
Towels
Personal items, soap etc.
Canteen

Camera
Hat
Sunglasses
Rain Gear, Coat
Allergy Medication
Sunscreen
Boots and Tennis Shoes
Sleeping Bag
Pillow

Field Notebook: On the field trip you are to take field notes using the below format. Moreover, you are to put a page number in the upper right corner of each page. Each page of your journal should have Journal, your name, the year, and a page number. Unique entries are required for each location on each day in the field. **The field notebook will be graded for completion.**

Figure 33-1.
Sample field journal page. Original size 8 1/4 × 9 inches.
(K.G. Matocha)

Journal	
○ K. G. Matocha 1968	
December	23. Texas: Kibbey County, 1 1/2 miles West Loyola Beach on F.M. 628. -- Set 19 Sherman traps and 1 live cat trap. Omaline & lab. chow as bait. Set about 5:00 p.m. Along ditch with some water. Short grass along edges. -- With Rick McDaniel 10:00 p.m. Check Traps -- Took: 1 - <i>Peromyscus leucopus</i> (escaped) 3 - <i>Oryzomys</i> sp. 1 - <i>Sigmodon hispidus</i> Reset traps that contained animals. 24. Picked up traps at 10:30 a.m. -- Took: 1 - <i>Oryzomys</i> sp. 3 - <i>Mus musculus</i> (2♂, 1♀) 2 - <i>Peromyscus leucopus</i> (2♂) 2 - <i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i> (1♂, 1♀)
December	25. Texas: Kibbey County. -- Two trap sites: [#1] -- 0.9 mi. W. Loyola Beach on F.M. 628 Set along ditch (with water), edge of road. 5:30 p.m. Total of 23 traps as follows: 10 - Sherman -- Omaline as bait 13 - Museum Specials -- Flouret better as bait. Much <i>Chloris</i> and <i>Cenchrus</i> in the area. Set at 5:45 p.m. [#2] -- 1.5 miles North of F.M. 628 on F.M. 172.

Figure 33-5.
Sample species account page. Original size 8 1/4 × 9 inches.
(K.G. Matocha)

Species Account	
○ K. G. Matocha 1972	
7 July	New Mexico: Dona Ana Co. Tornada Exp. Range - San Juan Headquarters (just N.E. Camp well). ♀ D. Womochel. -- Observed two pronghorn (1♂ & 1♀), about 6:00 p.m. They appeared to be browsing in this area.
8 July	New Mexico: Dona Ana Co. Tornada Experimental Range - N.E. Co-op Well. Observations made between 7:15 a.m. & 8:00 a.m. ♀ pronghorn seen in same area as 7 July 1972 observations. Stopped jeep about 50 yards from doe. She seemed to pay little attention to the presence of the jeep. She continued to browse while apparently moving toward a definite "goal." (Her behavior was very similar to that of a ♀ white-tailed deer that is approaching a fawn). She alternated moving & browsing. Seemed to be eating mostly browse species & not grasses. Once she began to feed on the flowers of a Yucca (for about 5 min.) then moved across the road & ate a yellow composite. She then crossed back across the road and fed on the Yucca flowers again. She then crossed the road again as if she was "returning to her original

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is defined as academic work completed as assigned for each class. Violations of academic integrity and other forms of cheating involve the intention to deceive, mislead, or misrepresent. Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, the following: 1) Cheating on tests and quizzes, 2) Failure to give credit to sources used in a work in an attempt to present the work as one's own, 3) Submission of papers or projects obtained from another source (e.g., research service or club paper file) as one's own, and 4) Falsifying information orally or in writing. Academic misconduct may result in, but is not limited to, a zero on the assignment and/or an F in the course. Additionally, the department chair, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Dean of Student Life will be notified. See the full university policy, including how to appeal a decision, by following this link: <https://www.acu.edu/community/offices/administrative/office-of-the-provost/academic-integrity-policy/overview.html>

Learning Disabilities: If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, you must contact the *ACU Student Disability Services Office* (part of *Alpha Academic Service*) at (325) 674-2667 or <https://www.acu.edu/community/offices/academic/uap/alpha-scholars/overview.html> to make an appointment with the Director of Disability Services. In order to receive accommodations, you must be registered with them for each class in which you need accommodations. They will make necessary arrangements in cooperation with instructors.

Behavior/Dress Code: Clothing and behavior should be appropriate to promote learning under lecture and/or laboratory conditions. Any behavior or dress that distracts other students or inhibits learning will receive one warning. If there is a second infringement, you will be asked to leave class. Harassment will not be tolerated: <http://www.acu.edu/community/offices/hr-finance/hr/title-ix/overview.html>

Faith and Inquiry: As with all areas worthy of inquiry, material in this course **will** challenge your understanding of the world (i.e. challenge your worldview). It is our objective as mentors in the Department of Biology to provide the space for your questions and your personal development during this process because we believe that it is essential that we temper our faith through adversity. "Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming." (**Ephesians 4:14**).

Current:

Prerequisite: BIOL 112/BIOL 114 and BIOL 113/BIOL 115 with a minimum grade of "C"

This should be changed to:

Prerequisite: BIOL 121/BIOL 122 and BIOL 123/BIOL 124 with a minimum grade of "C"