Lecture Schedule – BIOL 427 – Fall 2019 (Irwin)

Mon. & Wed. 9:00-9:50 AM; Biological Sciences room 1012

Note that this schedule may be changed as the course develops.

Date	**Topic**	**Optional textbook reading** (Handbook of Bird Biology, 3rd Ed., 2016)
Wed. Sept. 4	Introduction to course; Tetrapod biodiversity and its importance	Ch. 1, Why Study Birds?
Mon. Sept. 9	Introduction to bird identification	Ch. 2, Avian Diversity and Classification
Wed. Sept. 11	Taxonomic methods; Evolution of tetrapods	
Mon. Sept. 16	Field project: Survey methods	
Wed. Sept. 18	Origin of tetrapods, amphibians, and amniotes	
Mon. Sept. 23	Early evolution of reptiles and birds	Ch. 3, How Birds Evolve
Wed. Sept. 25	Avian diversity and adaptations	Ch. 5, Flight; Ch. 7, Physiology; Ch. 8, Food and Foraging
Mon. Sept. 30	Analytical methods for the field project	
Wed. Oct. 2	Vocal communication in birds	Ch. 10, Avian Vocal Behavior
Mon. Oct. 7	Visual communication in birds	Ch. 4, Feathers and Plumages
Wed. Oct. 9	Anatomy, feathers and molt (Ildiko Szabo)	Ch. 6, Avian Anatomy
Mon. Oct. 14	*Thanksgiving holiday – no class*	
Wed. Oct. 16	Mating systems and sexual selection	Ch. 9, Mating and Social Behavior; Ch. 11, Breeding Biology
Mon. Oct. 21	**Lecture midterm exam**	
Wed. Oct. 23	Species, speciation, and biogeography of BC	
Mon. Oct. 28	Migration and orientation	Ch. 12, Migration and Dispersal
Wed. Oct. 30	Hybrid zones, migratory divides, and speciation	
Mon. Nov. 4	Guest lecture: Dr. Doug Altshuler (flight in hummingbirds)	
Wed. Nov. 6	In-class group project work session	
Mon. Nov. 11	*Remembrance Day holiday – no class*	
Wed. Nov. 13	The sixth great mass extinction?	Ch. 13, Ecology of Populations; Ch. 14, Communities
Mon. Nov. 18	Conservation challenges and successes	Ch. 15, Bird Conservation
Wed. Nov. 20	**Group presentations**	
Mon. Nov. 25	**Group presentations**	
Wed. Nov. 27	**Group presentations**	