BIOL 492/L, BIOL792- Topics: Peruvian Natural History

<u>3 Credit hours</u>

Instructor: Dr. Jacob Kerby, 171C CL, 677-6170, Jacob.Kerby@usd.edu

Teaching Assistant: TBD

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description: This course emphasizes the natural history of South American biota with a focus on Peruvian species. Topics will include the origin and evolution of these organisms, understanding the ecology and behavior of these species, and identifying key species via an in depth understanding of distinguishing character traits. Practical experience with survey methodology and the use of field guides will be obtained during several field trips. One goal of the course is to assemble a field guide that future courses can use to identify local wildlife.

Co-requisites: Students must be signed up for both 492 (3 credits) and 492L (0 credits)

Text/ reading assignments: Readings from various texts and the primary literature will be assigned as appropriate. Required Texts for the trip TBA.

Course Webpage: Enrollment in the D2L site for BIOL 492 is <u>required</u>. Materials for the course, class announcements, and additional information will be on this site.

Course objectives: By the end of the course, you should be able to:

- Understand the basic physical and ecological forces structuring biotic communities in the study area.
- Develop skills related to estimating abundances of local flora and fauna
- Understand the evolutionary and geological history of Peru
- Identify a wide variety of organisms including mammals, reptiles, birds, amphibians, plants, and invertebrates.

COURSE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Course Expectations

Attendance: You are expected to attend all indicated lectures and lab classes. Your inputs into class and lab discussions are important.

Punctuality: Please be on time. If you have to be late to a class, take extra effort to come in quietly so as to minimize the distraction. Repeated late arrival will adversely impact your course grade.

Class participation. You will be expected to actively participate in class. We will meet daily to discuss concepts related to the tropics and to natural history. This requires that you be familiar with material covered, complete reading assignments prior to class, and review lecture

notes periodically. Active participation in the classroom and field trips are essential. Please ask questions about course material and/or reading assignments.

Field trips: We will be taking several day trips to the surrounding areas in various regions of Peru. Details will be presented in class.

Reading: Readings may include excerpts from texts, primary journal articles and review articles taken from the current literature.

Exam: There will be one species ID exam in this course which will make up 20% of the overall grade.

Field notebook: A detailed field notebook recording observations during the field course is required to be submitted at the end of the course. This will make up 20% of the overall grade. A detailed rubric its evaluation will be provided in the course materials on D2L.

Field Guide: A 7-10 page assignment will make up 40% of the course grade. The goal of the paper is to focus on a single aspect of Peruvian natural history in detail. This might be a set of species or description of an ecosystem. Details of the grading rubric will be provided in the course materials on D2L.

Graduate requirements- BIOL 792: Graduate students will be held to a higher standard for each of the above requirements. In addition, students will be required to proof, edit, and assemble the field guide entries of other students and assemble it into a cohesive guide.

Field Safety and Preparedness: Students are expected dress appropriately for field trip including appropriate footwear, hats and raingear. A full list of appropriate items to bring will be provided ahead of time. Students must obey safety instructions by teaching staff at all times.

Calculation of course grade: Your grade depends only on how well you do in the class and lab.

BIOL 492/L Exam: 20% Field Notebook: 20% Field Guide 40% Participation: 20%

90-100% is an A, 80-89% a B, 70-79% a C, 60-69% a D, and below that an F.

Freedom in learning: Students are responsible for learning the content of any course of study in which they are enrolled. Under Board of Regents and University policy, student academic performance shall be evaluated solely on an academic basis and students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study. Students who believe that an academic evaluation is unrelated to academic standards but is related instead to judgment of their personal opinion or conduct should contact the dean of the college which offers the class to initiate a review of the evaluation. **Course Content:** Material in this course deals with the ecology and evolution of organisms, and is presented from a scientific perspective. Assignments in this course evaluate student knowledge from a scientific perspective.

Accommodations for students with disabilities: Any student who feels s/he may need academic accommodations or access accommodations based on the impact of a documented disability should contact and register with Disability Services during the first week of class. Disability Services is the official office to assist students through the process of disability verification and coordination of appropriate and reasonable accommodations. Students currently registered with Disability Services must obtain a new accommodation memo each semester. For information contact:

Ernetta L. Fox, Director Disability Services Room 119 Service Center (605) 677-6389 www.usd.edu/ds; dservices@usd.edu.

Other University Student Support services:

Academic Advising Center for general academic assistance: 20 Arts and Sciences Building http://www.usd.edu/advising/ Writing Center Dakota Hall 201 http://www.usd.edu/engl/writingcenter.cfm

Academic Misconduct. Academic misconduct, including, but not limited to cheating and plagiarism, will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in accordance with university regulations and procedures.

Official College policy: Because the entire educational process rests upon an atmosphere of academic honesty and trust, the College community must promote and protect the sanctity of such an environment at the University. To that end, the College of Arts and Sciences considers the following infractions as being inimical to the objectives of higher education: Cheating is defined as intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise (Student Conduct Code). Plagiarism is defined as intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise (Student Conduct Code). In the event that cheating or plagiarism occurs, a letter will be sent to the Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Dean of the student's respective program notifying them of the offense. At the discretion of the instructor, a student caught cheating or plagiarizing may be:

- a. Given a zero for that assignment.
- b. Allowed to rewrite and resubmit the assignment for credit.
- c. Assigned a reduced grade for the course.
- d. Dropped from the course.
- e. Failed in the course.

Day	Theme	Readings	Contact Hours	Date
1	Intro to Peru		4 hours lecture	May 28
2	Flora of Peru		2 hours lecture	June 29
	Botanical Garden visit		5 hours tour	
3	Fauna of Peru		2 hours lecture	June 30
	Natural History Museum		5 hours tour	
4	Peruvian geology and evolutionary history		4 hours lecture	June 1
5	Flora and Fauna of Peru		1 hour lecture	June 2
	Ballones Islands		5 hours tour	
6	Exam 1/Travel Day		1 hour lecture	June 3
7	Field trip to Lake Titicaca		2 hours lecture	June 4
			5 hours tour	
8	Field trip (surrounding area)		2 hours lecture	June 5
			5 hours tour	
9	Travel day			June 6
10	Field trip to Andahuaylillas		2 hours lecture	June 7
	Field Station		5 hours tour	
11	Field book data and		3 hours lecture	June 8
	Term paper			
12	Review of Flora and Fauna		4 hours lecture	June 9
10				L 10
13	Machupicchu tour		6 hours tour	June 10
14	Departure to US			June 11

Course Schedule – BIOL 492/L, 792 – Summer 2018

Changes to the above schedule will be announced in class and/or in D2L Lecture hours- 27 Field trip hours- 36 (/2= 18) Total contact hours: 45