NR32 – Introduction to Museum Taxidermy

Course Syllabus for Spring 2017 – Section #58322

Thursday 6-8:50pm (FEM 8)

**Instructor**: Louie M Long Jr

 Office , Phone 4F : (559) 638-0300 Ext. 3268

Office Hours: Tuesday 8:00am – 12:00pm

 **Email**: louie.long@reedleycollege.edu

**Supplies: (students must purchase)**

I cannot keep everyone supplied with the tools and extra blades required therefore you will need to purchase some basic equipment in order to complete the class.

You will need the following equipment;

**Dissection kit** - The kit you purchase does not need to be an expensive one. A basic kit with a scalpel handle, scissors, tweezers, pin tool, and probe will be just fine. Kits range in price from about $10 and go up from there. I do not recommend buying a scalpel with a fixed blade unless you are a master knife sharpener. When selecting a kit, buy one that allows you to replace the blade and buy plenty of extra blades as the get dull very quickly. You can purchase dissection kits from various places (see links on CANVAS).

**Extra blades** – Scalpel blades dull very quickly, especially when you are scraping against bone. It is essential that you buy extra blades. You can buy them in bulk (recommended).

**Forms for life-like mounts and other components required to finish the mount (eyes, inserts, jaw sets, etc.)** – you will be responsible for purchasing your form and all other components. Make sure you plan ahead as it can take a week or two for delivery.

**Course Objectives**:

To introduce students to the basic techniques for the preservation and display of wildlife skins. Students will learn to properly prepare both mammal and bird skins for display in a museum collection.

**Always come prepared for class. My definition of “Being Prepared” means to bring your equipment with you. Wear clothes that you will not be afraid to get dirty as taxidermy can be a messy job. Frozen specimens take 5 – 6 hours to defrost when whole (depending on size) and 2 – 3 hours to defrost when just skins. Remove your specimens from the freezer on Thursday mornings so that they will be thoroughly defrosted when class starts. If you will not be on campus in the morning, make arrangements with me so that I can take your specimen out of the freezer for you.**

 **Attendance and Grading Policy:**

If you miss a lecture or lab, you are responsible for obtaining notes from a classmate. The success of any class depends on the presence and active participation of each student; therefore, you are expected to attend every class. **If you miss class >3 times during the semester you may be dropped from the course**. Individual exam grades may be curved and final grades will be assigned based on a straight percentage system according to the following scale:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Course Grade** **Cumulative Percent** A 90-100 B 80-89 C 70-79 D 60-69 F < 59 | Breakdown of Grades PercentageMammal round skin 33%Bird round skin 33%Life-like mount 33% **Total 100%**  |

Each project will be graded in the following areas: Proper Skin Preparation, Project Completion, Appropriate Project, Quality of Work. Each of the aforementioned areas will be scored on a 0 to 10 point scale for a total of 40 points for each project.

***LAST DAY TO DROP via WebAdvisor is Sunday January 29th, 2016***

**Accommodation Needs:**

If you have a need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e., Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act(ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact me as soon as possible.

Tentative Schedule:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Date** | **Lecture/Lab** |
| 1 | 1/12/17 | Introduction to Taxidermy |
| 2 | 1/19/17 | Bird Round Skin |
| 3 | 1/26/17 | Bird Round Skin |
| 4 | 2/2/17 | Bird Round Skin |
| 5 | 2/9/17 | **Due: Bird Round Skin** |
| 6 | 2/16/17 | Mammal Round Skin |
| 7 | 2/23/17 | Mammal Round Skin |
| 8 | 3/2/17 | Mammal Round Skin |
| 9 | 3/9/17 | Mammal Round Skin |
| 10 | 3/16/17 | **Due: Mammal Round Skin** |
| 11 | 3/23/17 | **No Class - Humboldt Trip** |
| 12 | 3/30/17 | Life-Like Mount |
| 13 | 4/6/17 | Life-Like Mount |
|  | 4/13/17 | **Spring Break** |
| 14 | 4/20/17 | Life-Like Mount |
| 15 | 4/27/17 | **NR 110 Trip – No Class** |
| 16 | 5/4/17 | Life-Like Mount |
| 17 | 5/11/17 | Life-Like Mount |
| 18 | 5/18/17 | **Due: Life-Like Mount** |