

NR32A - Museum Taxidermy
Course Syllabus for Spring 2022 - Section #50147
Thursday 6-8:50pm (FNR 8)

Instructor: Louie M Long Jr

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Office Hours: T 10:00-11:50am, Th 10:00-11:50am, Other Times By Appointment

Supplies: (students must purchase)

Dissecting kit

Forms for aesthetic mounts

Eyes

Any components necessary to finish the mount not provided by the college

Course Description: 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.

Course Objectives: Upon completion this course you will:

1. Safely use appropriate chemicals and tools.
2. Learn and use appropriate methods to preserve and prepare animal skins for display in a museum collection.
3. Learn and use appropriate methods to preserve and prepare a life-like taxidermy mount for display.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion this course students will:

1. Employ appropriate safety procedures when preparing taxidermy specimens.
 - Skill 1.1: Identify safety concerns and techniques to mitigate risks
 - Skill 1.2: Properly and safely handle taxidermy tools
 - Skill 1.3: Properly and safely use standard chemicals used in taxidermy
2. Properly preserve and prepare a life-like mount of a bird or mammal.
 - Skill 2.1: Properly skin a mammal for a museum mount.
 - Skill 2.2: Properly skin a bird for a museum mount.
 - Skill 2.3: Properly store animals and skins to prevent freezer damage.
3. Properly preserve and prepare birds skins and mammal skins for study and display.
 - Skill 3.1: Properly mount a mammal in a life-like mount.
 - Skill 3.2: Properly mount a bird in a life-like mount.

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.**

Each assignment will be graded using a Skill Mastery Scale that ranges from 0 - 4 where a 0 means that the student has not demonstrated any comprehension of the skill and a 4 means that the student has mastered the skill (see Table 1 below). As with anything, practice makes improvement. Your job is to learn the skill and demonstrate mastery. If you fail to demonstrate mastery of a skill during any of the individual labs there will be opportunities to re-do the lab or portions of the lab to get more experience and practice with the skill in order to demonstrate mastery.

Table 1: Skills Mastery & Grading Scale

Score	Mastery Scale			
4	Exceptional Competence	A	3.50 – 4.00	87.50% – 100%
3	Clear Competence	B	2.75 – 3.49	68.75% – 87.40%
2	Adequate Competence	C	2.00 – 2.74	50.00% – 68.74%
1	Basic Competence	D	1.25 – 1.99	31.25% – 49.90%
0	No Evidence of Progress Towards the Learning Target	F	0 – 1.24	<31.25%

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.

Important Dates:

Monday, January 16 -----Martin Luther King Jr Day – No Class
Friday, January 20 -----Last day to drop a spring full-term class for full refund
Friday, January 27 -----Last day to register for a full-term class in person
Friday, January 27 -----Last day to drop a spring class to avoid a “W” in person
Sunday, January 29 -----Last day to drop a spring class to avoid a “W” on Self-Service
Friday, February 10-----Last day to change class to/from Pass/No-Pass grading basis
Friday, February 17-----Lincoln Day - No Class
Monday, February 20 -----Washington Day - No Class
Friday, March 10-----Last day to drop a full-term class. Letter grade assigned after this date
Monday – Friday, April 3 – 7-----Spring Break
Monday – Friday, May 15 - 19 -----Finals Week

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:

Week	Date	Topic
1	1/12/2023	Introduction & Instruction
2	1/19/2023	Project Work
3	1/26/2023	Project Work
4	2/2/2023	Project Work
5	2/9/2023	Project Work
6	2/16/2023	Project Work
7	2/23/2023	Project Work
8	3/2/2023	Project Work
9	3/9/2023	Project Work
10	3/16/2023	Project Work
11	3/23/2023	Project Work
12	3/30/2023	Project Work
13	4/6/2023	Project Work
	4/13/2023	No Class - Spring Break
14	4/20/2023	No Class - NR 110 Field Studies
15	4/27/2023	Project Work
16	5/4/2023	Project Work
17	5/11/2023	Project Work
18	5/18/2023	Project Work - All Projects Due

Student Learning Objective

SLO 1: Employ appropriate safety procedures when preparing taxidermy specimens.

Skill 1.1: Identify safety concerns and techniques to mitigate (lesson) the risks

Identify the risks inherent in working with dead animals.
 Explain how you might mitigate (lessen) the risk involved in working with dead animals

Date	Student Initials	Instructor Initials

Skill 1.2: Properly and safely handle taxidermy tools

Demonstrate how to safely hold and work with a knife or scalpel.
 Demonstrate how to safely change a scalpel blade

Skill 1.3: Properly and safely use standard chemicals used

Identify chemicals used in taxidermy.
 Demonstrate how to work safely with these chemicals.

SLO 2: Properly preserve and prepare a life-like mount of a bird or mammal.

Skill 2.1: Properly skin a mammal for a museum mount.

Explain how to properly skin a mammal for preservation.
 Demonstrate how to properly skin a mammal for preservation.

Date	Student Initials	Instructor Initials

Skill 2.2: Properly skin a bird for a museum mount.

Explain how to properly skin a bird for preservation.
 Demonstrate how to properly skin a bird for preservation.

Skill 2.3: Properly store animals and skins to prevent freezer damage.

Explain how to properly store animal skins during the taxidermy process
 Demonstrate how to properly store and animal skins during the taxidermy process.

SLO 3: Properly preserve and prepare bird skins and mammal skins for study and display.

Skill 3.1: Properly mount a mammal in a life-like mount.

Demonstrate how to properly mount a mammal skin in a life-like mount.

Date	Student Initials	Instructor Initials

Skill 3.2: Properly mount a bird in a life-like mount.

Demonstrate how to properly mount a bird skin in a life-like mount.

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