

**NR32C - Museum Taxidermy**  
Course Syllabus for Spring 2021 - Section #50149  
Thursday 6-8:50pm (FEM 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. Learn advanced level skills in preparing life-like mounts of mammals.
2. Learn advanced level skills for preparing life-like mounts of birds.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Upon completion this course students will:

1. Improve preparation, preservation, and display skills for creating life-like mounts of birds.
  - Skill 1.1: Make your own mold for casting a bird form
  - Skill 1.2: Making your own form (excelsior or polyurethane foam)
2. Improve preparation, preservation, and display skills for creating life-like mounts of mammals.
  - Skill 2.1: Make your own mold for casting a mammal form
  - Skill 2.2: Make your own form (excelsior or polyurethane foam)
  - Skill 2.3: Pickle and tan a mammal skin
3. Properly plan a life-like mount project including the best location for incisions during the skinning process, choosing proper body forms, and modification of body forms.
  - Skill 3.1: Plan a project start to finish.
  - Skill 3.2: Make a base for your project
  - Skill 3.3: Modify a form for use in a project

## 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:

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 lass 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:**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
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: Improve preparation, preservation, and display skills for creating life-like mounts of birds.

**Skill 1.1: Make your own mold for casting a bird form**

Make a silicon mold of a bird body (reproduction or original)

Make a mother mold using fiberglass

Date	Student Initials	Instructor Initials

**Skill 1.2: Making your own form (excelsior or polyurethane foam)**

Pour a polyurethane body using the mold you created

Make a body using excelsior


### SLO 2: Improve preparation, preservation, and display skills for creating life-like mounts of mammals.

**Skill 2.1: Make your own mold for casting a form**

Make a silicon mold of a mammal body (reproduction or original)

Make a mother mold using fiberglass

Date	Student Initials	Instructor Initials

**Skill 2.2: Making your own form (excelsior or polyurethane foam)**

Pour a polyurethane body using the mold you created

Make a body using excelsior


**Skill 2.3: Pickle and tan a mammal skin**

Create your own pickle solution and pickle a hide

Create your own tanning solution and tan a hide. Break it to make a soft tan.


**SLO 3: Properly plan a life-like mount project including the best location for incisions during the skinning process, choosing proper body forms, and modification of body forms.**

**Skill 3.1: Plan a project start to finish.**

Plan a project start to finish. Explain you plan to the instructor before you begin.

Date	Student Initials	Instructor Initials

**Skill 3.2: Make a base for your project**

Make a complex base or backboard for your mounting (i.e. use habitat components/create a scenic mount)

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**Skill 3.3: Modify a form for use in a project**

Modify a polyurethane form to fit your desired project appearance (cut and reshape the form)

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