ICHTHYOLOGY

Biology 3900/5900, Fall, 2008

Lecturer

David L. Bech ler, PhD

db echler@valdosta.edu

Office: Room 2030, Bailey Science Complex

Research laboratory: Room 2050, Bailey S cienc e Complex

Phones: personal office 293-6063; m ain Biology office 333-5759

Lecture: MWF, 11:00-11:50 pm; BC 2202

Laboratory: F, 1 2:00-2:50 pm; BC 1088/Fi eldtrips

• Objecti ves: All objectives meet University Educational Ou tcome on web page

http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/VS UGener alEducatio nOutcomes.shtml

• To develop an u nderstanding of the phylogenetic/systematic relationships of extinct and extant fishes

with an emphasis on evolution. To learn the basic ecology, behavior and life history patterns of key fish

families and species

• To learn unique aspects of the biology o f key fish families.

The following topics listed below under Lecture Topics will be covered in this course as time permits. The

emphasis in lecture is on the systematics, life histories, behavior and ecology of fishes. The primar y emphasis in lab

will be on taxonomy and field biology of fishes.

B elow is a list of fieldtrips for this semester. This list is tentative due to possible complications involving weather

and other scheduling conflicts. Because of this some trips may be moved

Lecture Tests:

• Test 1 —Announced one week prior to test

• Test 2—Announced one week prior to test

• Final—7 Dec, 12:30-2:30 pm

Reading assignments : During the semester, reading assignment from the lectur e textboo k will be announced in

class and placed on the Ichthyology Web Site. These assignments will be tested on in lecture tests, but may not

necessarily be lectured on in class.

Laboratory and Fieldtrips:

Laboratory activities will be as follows:

1. Learn to identify fishes in the VSU collection.

2. Sort, identify, and label any uncatalogued specimens in the collection.

3. Harden, preserve, and label specimens collected in the field durin g class fieldtri ps and during personal

collecting trips.

4. Catalog and record all fish preserved during th e semester in the VSU Herpetology collection using Micro so ft

Access.

Hardenin g and Preser vation: Fish will be hardened in 10% formalin and preserved in 55% isopropyl al cohol . All

specimens will be identified and the appropriate waterproof label placed in the jar or attached to the specimen.

Labels will be completed using water insoluble ink. Pens and labels will be provided in class. Do not place labels in

specimens98 450.1 Tm ( ) TJ ET BT 1 0 i

 9 Nov— Sort, ID, and prepare collected specimens for the VSU collection.
 Nov 16— Gyotaku, the Art and Biology of Fish Prints.
 23 Nov—Study for laboratory test 2
 30 Nov — Laboratory test 2, derived fishes.

Laboratory Access: So you can study the specimens of fish that will be placed on the lab benches for the tests,
you will have access to room 1088 on evenings and weekends. You must see public safety to gain access to the
building if it is locked and present a valid ID card. The keypad on the door will allow you access to the laboratory
room.

Laboratory Grades: The lab grade will be based on the following three items:
 5% for participation in three field trips. This means that you not only go on the fieldtrip, but that you
actively participate in collecting.
 5% on preparation of specimens returned to the lab and participation in cataloging of the VSU ichthyology
collection.
 90% on the tests given in lab. Each lab test will be worth 100 points and the assignment worth 200 points.

Course Grade
 The final grade for the course will be as follows: Grade = .75(Lecture Grade) + .25(Lab)

Important Dates Fall 2010
 3 September Labor Day. No classes
 4 October Midterm. Last day to drop classes*
 15-16 October Fall Break. No classes.
 21-23 November Thanksgiving.

* No one will be dropped after the last drop date unless there are extenuating circumstances beyond your control.

Alcohol Policy:
 There will be no alcoholic beverages taken on fieldtrips.

Hazardous Fieldtrip Policy
See Hazardous Fieldtrip Policy. (See on web or as handout)

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 8-4 pm.

David L. Bechler
Office: BC 2030
Office Phone: 229-293-6063
E-mail: dbechler@valdosta.edu
Web Page*: http://chiron.valdosta.edu/dbechler/default.htm