Zoo and Aquarium Biology and Management

PAZ 5235

3 Credit Hours

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA &

**DISNEY’S ANIMAL KINGDOM**

**2024**

**Instructors**: Dr. Austin Leeds, Research Manager, Disney’s Animal Kingdom

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**When**: 9:00AM – 5:00 PM, May 6 – 10, May 13 – 17, 2023

**Where**: Disney’s Animal Kingdom, Animal Programs Building, Inspiration classrooms.

**Course Description**: This course covers the care and welfare, propagation, and display of wild animals in zoos and aquariums as well as the missions of accredited zoos and aquariums . The course focuses on the applied aspects of biology/zoology and what is involved in managing wild animals in a zoo/aquarium environment. It also covers the role of zoos and aquariums in conservation, education and research. The course is taught in a zoological/aquarium setting and lectures are provided by professional zoo and aquarium staff that specialize in various areas of the field.

**Course Objectives:** Completion of this course will develop a student’s knowledge of the following topics.

1. Natural history and management of taxonomic groups (fish, invertebrates, reptiles and amphibians, birds, primates, ungulates)
2. The role of enrichment and training
3. Nutrition
4. Veterinary Care
5. Reproduction and Contraception
6. Record Keeping
7. Population Management (AZA Species Survival Plans, Taxon Advisory Groups, cooperative breeding programs)
8. Education (developing programs, interpretive graphics, guest experience)
9. Conservation Programs
10. Research in a zoo/aquarium setting
11. Careers in zoos and aquariums

**Course Prerequisites:** Graduate students in Biology will be given registration priority for this course.

**Evaluation and Grading:**

Exam 1 100 points

Exam 2 100 points

Class and Project Participation 50 points

Quizzes (2 Total) 50 points

Research Exercise 50 points

Final Paper 100 points

Final Project 50 points

Total: 500 points

**Letter grades will be assigned using the following scale:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| A | 93%-100% | (465-400 pts) |
| A- | 90%-92% | (450-464 pts) |
| B+ | 87%-89% | (435-449 pts) |
| B | 83%-86% | (415-434 pts) |
| B- | 80%-82% | (400-414 pts) |
| C+ | 77%-79% | (385-399 pts) |
| C | 73%-76% | (365-384 pts) |
| C- | 70%-72% | (350-364 pts) |
| D+ | 67%-69% | (335-349 pts) |
| D | 63%-66% | (315-334 pts) |
| D- | 60%-62% | (300-314 pts) |
| F | 0%-59% | (< 300 pts) |

Quizzes – are scheduled on the syllabus. Questions will be true/false, matching, multiple choice, or short-answer and cover material covered in prior lectures.

Exams - will be composed of a combination of true/false, matching, multiple-choice, short-answer and essay questions. While the second exam will not be cumulative in regards to specific details, you will learn concepts in the first week of the course that you will need to apply throughout.

Research Exercise - will be distributed in-class following the lecture on Research Methodology. You will be required to apply the techniques that were discussed in the lecture and collect data on animal behavior during scheduled course time. After collecting the data, you will need to summarize it and answer questions about different data collection methods. This exercise will be due at the start of class on Tuesday May 10th. The assignment should be typed and submitted through the Webcourses (or through email with prior approval).

Final Paper - guidelines and potential topics will be distributed by the instructors by the end of the first week of the course. Students must discuss and finalize their topics with the instructors prior to the end of class on Wednesday, May 11th. Papers must be 5 to 10 double-spaced pages and include at least 5 peer-reviewed citations. You will be required to choose a topic, present the appropriate information (i.e. pros and cons) and then present your opinion on the topic. You must give sufficient background on the pros and cons of the topic to indicate that you have researched the topic and understand both sides of the argument. Your opinion does not have to match our viewpoint or that of AZA but we need to know you thoroughly understand the issue. You should make your own decision based on the information at hand, and the more information on your side, the stronger your argument will be.

Final Project - is a group project that will be distributed during the final class period. This project will require that you apply all the concepts that you were exposed to in this course. All materials and resources that you will need to complete this project will be provided.

*Due to the tight schedule of this course, late assignments will not be accepted and makeup exams will not be given.*

**Attendance/Requirements**: Attendance to all classes is mandatory. Missing a class day will result in a 100 point penalty. Missing a portion of a day will result in a 50 point penalty. Arriving more than 30 minutes late to more than one day will result in a 10 point penalty for each day thereafter.

**Academic Integrity:** As reflected in the UCF creed, integrity and scholarship are core values that should guide our conduct and decisions as members of the UCF community. Plagiarism and cheating contradict these values, and so are very serious academic offenses. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, or suspension or expulsion from the university. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the University’s Rules of Conduct (see http://www.osc.sdes.ucf.edu/).

**Conduct:** Dress for the class is business casual. This means that you CANNOT wear any of the following: t-shirts, tank tops, flip flops, athletic shoes, ripped jeans, or shorts. Keep in mind that you will be in animal areas and thus you must wear close-toed shoes. The classroom can be rather chilly so we advise bringing a sweater or light jacket. Cell phone use will be limited to break times and are not permitted to be used during lectures or course activities in the classroom. Photographs and video of any kind are prohibited in all backstage areas, including use of phone cameras and video. **Violation of this rule will result in immediate dismissal from the course, assignment of a failing grade, and report of the violation to the UCF office of Student Conduct for further disciplinary action.**

**Lunch and Breaks:** You will be provided access to the cafeteria at Disney’s Animal Kingdom to purchase lunch. Alternatively, you may bring your lunch and eat in the classroom. However, you are not permitted to leave the property and you are not permitted to enter the park during the lunch hour.

**Please note that the schedule is subject to change at any time due to needs of the animals and operations of Disney’s Animal Kingdom.**

**Day 1, Monday, May 6**

**Day 2, Tuesday, May 7**

**Day 3, Wednesday, May 8**

**Day 4, Thursday, May 9**

**Day 5, Friday, May 10**

**Day 6, Monday, May 13**

**Day 7, Tuesday May 14**

**Day 8, Wednesday, May 15**

**Day 9, Thursday, May 16**

**Day 10, Friday, May 17**