

Natural Resources 4610
“Natural History of Ohio”
Spring 2023
Course Syllabus
UPDATED 2/1/23

Course Meeting Times

Wednesdays: 2:20 – 5 p.m.

Main Classroom, Heffner Building, 352 W. Dodridge St., Columbus, OH 43202

And various field trip locations

Course Instructor

Susan M. Rasche

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Office: 384 Kottman Hall

Individual hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:30-3:30 and by request

Course Description

This course will help students develop a broad understanding of Ohio’s native plants and animals, Ohio’s geology and geography, and the interrelationships between and among them. Students will develop research and observational skills associated with Ohio’s natural history.

Course Goals:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Understand the abiotic and biotic components of Ohio’s natural history
- Understand the relationship between the abiotic and biotic components of Ohio’s ecosystems, including the influence of man
- Identify a range of Ohio species and landforms

Course Objectives

- Students will describe and explain Ohio’s geologic and climatic history and their influence on plant and animal communities.
- Students will identify and describe the ecology of Ohio’s common ecosystems and identify the plants and animals which inhabit them.
- Students will study the influence of man on the natural history of Ohio.

Course Texts

- Michael B. Lafferty ed. 2003. Ohio’s Natural Heritage.
The Ohio Academy of Science. Columbus, OH
NOTE: any edition will be acceptable, including CD, or online from OSU library
- Kaufman, Kenn, et al. Kaufman Field Guide to Nature of the Midwest
- ODNR Field Guides: <https://ohiodnr.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr/discover-and-learn/safety-conservation/about-ODNR/wildlife/documents-publications/backyard-wildlife-documents>

Attendance

Attendance and punctuality are expected. If you need to miss a class, please inform me in advance if possible. If you miss a class, please check the syllabus and Carmen first, then contact me if you have any questions. You are responsible for the notes and readings. If you have an unexcused absence for a presentation or exam, your grade will be entered as a zero.

Class Format

Classes will be a combination of lectures, guest lectures, and field trips. Discussion and questions are welcome; you are amongst a synergistic group of your peers. Remember; always have a passion for what you are learning!

Disability Accommodations

The Office for Disability Services will notify me of the need for accommodation of a registered disability. I also encourage you to discuss your accommodations with me so that we can partner for your success. If you need an accommodation based on the impact of a non-registered or temporary disability, please inform me so that we can discuss the class format, anticipate your needs, and explore potential accommodations.

Attendance, Tests, Exams, Assignments, and Values

<u>Item</u>	<u>Point Value</u>
Attendance (10 pts. Each)	100
Textbook Test 1 (online) – Feb. 22	200
Flora and Fauna Test – Ap. 5	300
Readings and lectures exam – Ap. 12	200
Plot Study – Due Ap. 19	200
Total points possible	1,000

Notes:

- Tests will cover both lecture and text material. Flora and fauna test is timed slides so make-up is very difficult. Please do your best to be there, and at every class.
- Please make sure you cite and give credit for ALL material you use in your work, including that which is gathered from the internet.
- Faculty rule 3335-5-54 will be followed in the case of academic misconduct.

Course Schedule

Jan. 11: Introduction and Geology – Dennis Hull, hull.135@osu.edu
Read Chapters 1, 2, 4, and 17; Field Guide pgs. 1-17

Jan. 18: Weather – Ben Gelber, bgelber@wcmh.com
Soils and Wetlands– Mark Dilley, mark@madscientistassociates.net
Read Chapters 5, 6, and 9; Field Guide pgs. 18-39

Jan. 25: Fish – Brian Zimmerman, zimmerman.205@osu.edu
Amphibians and Reptiles – Cody Berkebile, berkebile@metroparks.net
Read Chapter 8, Field Guide pgs. 276-321,

Feb. 1: Birds – Matt Shumar, matthewbshumar@gmail.com
Field Guide pgs. 208-275

Feb. 8: Arthropods – George Keeney, georgedkeeney1959@gmail.com
Field Guide pgs. 322-391

Feb. 15: Mammals – Jayna Hulse, jhulse@ohiowildlifecenter.org
Offsite Field Trip - WILDLIFE CENTER
Read Field Guide pgs. 186-207

Feb. 22: Textbook test 1 (Online) – Chapters 10-15 and 18-19, Field Guide pgs. 40-47)
NO Class

Mar. 1: Pleistocene – Dr. Dale Gnidovec, gnidovec.1@osu.edu
First Ohioans – Dr. Brad Lepper, blepper@ohiohistory.org
Read Chapter 3 and 16

Mar. 8: Non-flowering plants – Dr. Bob Klips, klips.1@osu.edu
Read Field Guide pgs. 166-185

Mar. 22: Trees – Dave Apsley, apsley.1@osu.edu and Andrew Boose, boose@metroparks.net
Read Ch. 7 and Field Guide pgs. 114-165

Mar. 29: Wildflowers - Jen Snyder, snyder@metroparks.net
Offsite Field Trip – INNISWOOD MetroPark
Read Field Guide pgs. 48-113

Ap. 5: Flora and Fauna Test

Ap. 12: Test on textbook and lecture material (excluding Ch 10-15, 18-19, and FG 40-47)

Ap. 19: Plot Study DUE – online