

**Natural Resources 4610**  
**“Natural History of Ohio”**  
**Spring 2018**  
**Course Syllabus**

**Course Meeting Times**

Wednesdays: 2:20 – 5 p.m.

107A Heffner Building, 352 W. Dodridge St., Columbus, OH 43202

**Course Instructor**

Susan M. Rasche

614-565-8568 (cell)

[rasche.4@osu.edu](mailto:rasche.4@osu.edu)

Office: 384 Kottman Hall

Office hours: T/R 2:30 – 3:30 p.m., and by appointment

**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

Kaufman, Kenn, et al. Kaufman Field Guide to Nature of the Midwest

**Attendance**

Attendance and punctuality are required and expected. If you need to miss a class, please inform me in advance or have a written excuse for your absence from the Student Health Center. If you miss a class, you are responsible for copying the notes from a fellow classmate and then seeing me if you have any questions. If you have an unexcused absence for a test, your grade will be entered as a zero.

## **Class Format**

Classes will be a combination of lectures and field trips. Discussion and questions are welcome; you sit 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 be relied upon to notify me of the need for accommodation of a registered disability. 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.

## **Tests, Exams, Assignments, and Values**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Point Value</u>
Attendance (10 pts. each)	120
1/31 Midterm Test	190
3/7 Midterm Test	190
Plot Study, due 4/19	300
Final Exam on 4/25, 4-5:45 p.m.	<u>200</u>
Total points possible	1,000
Extra Credit Field Trip 4-7/8 or 4-14/15	100

## **Notes:**

- Tests will cover both lecture and text material. Makeup tests will be offered only under extreme circumstances.
- Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the assigned date. Late assignments will be devalued by 5% of their grade per day, including weekends.
- Writing skills ALWAYS count! Points will be taken off for poor composition and poor spelling.
- 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. Basically, don't cheat, don't plagiarize, and don't be foolish enough to think I will let these kinds of actions slide.

## **Plot Study Assignment (due Ap. 18):**

- to be completed by a team of two students
- guidelines will be posted

## Course Schedule

Jan. 11:

Introduction (2:20-2:55 p.m.)  
Read Chapters 1, 4 and 17; Field guide 5-7  
Geology – Dennis Hull, [hull.135@osu.edu](mailto:hull.135@osu.edu) (3-4:25 p.m.)  
Read Chapter 2; Field guide 8-17  
Weather – Ben Gelber, [BGelber@wcmh.com](mailto:BGelber@wcmh.com) (4:30-5 p.m.)  
Read Chapter 5; Field guide 18-39

Jan. 17:

Pleistocene – Dr. Dale Gnidovec, [gnidovec.1@osu.edu](mailto:gnidovec.1@osu.edu) (2:20-3:35 p.m.)  
Read Chapter 3  
Soils and Wetlands – David Hanselmann, [hanselmann.3@osu.edu](mailto:hanselmann.3@osu.edu) (3:30-5p.m.)  
Read Chapter 6 - 97

Jan. 24:

Ohio's Unique Natural History – Guy Denny, [guydenny@centurylink.net](mailto:guydenny@centurylink.net),  
[www.onapa.org](http://www.onapa.org) (2:20 – 4 p.m.)  
Read Chapters 9 – 15; Field guide 40-47  
Review 4:05-5 P

Jan. 31:

**Midterm:** Chapters 1-6, 8-15, 17-19; Field guide 5-47, 394-401, Jan. Lectures

Feb. 7:

Arthropods – Dr. George Keeney, [keeney.1@osu.edu](mailto:keeney.1@osu.edu) (2:20-3:35 p.m.)  
Read Field guide 322-391  
Fish – Brian Zimmerman, [smbass444@yahoo.com](mailto:smbass444@yahoo.com) [www.ZimmermansFish.com](http://www.ZimmermansFish.com) (3:40-5 p.m.)  
Read Field guide 298-321

Feb. 14:

Amphibians and Reptiles – John Watts, [watts@metroparks.net](mailto:watts@metroparks.net) (2:20-3:35 p.m.)  
Read Field guide 276-297  
Birds – Matt Shumar, [matthewbshumar@gmail.com](mailto:matthewbshumar@gmail.com) (3:30-5 p.m.)  
Read Field guide 208-275

Feb. 21:

Mammals – Stormy Gibson, [sgibson@ohiowildlifecenter.org](mailto:sgibson@ohiowildlifecenter.org) (2:20-5 p.m.) **Offsite**  
Field Trip - WILDLIFE CENTER  
Read Field guide 186-207

Feb. 28:

Brad Lepper, [blepper@ohiohistory.org](mailto:blepper@ohiohistory.org) (2:20-5 p.m.) **Offsite** Field Trip – The Ohio  
History Center  
Read Chapter 16

Mar. 7:

**Midterm:** Chapter 16, Field guide 186-391, Feb. Lectures

Mar. 14: NO CLASS, Spring Break

Mar. 21:

Mushrooms- Julie Powell Albright, (2:20-3:35 p.m.)

[juliepowell16@yahoo.com](mailto:juliepowell16@yahoo.com), [www.morethanmorelmushrooms.co/home](http://www.morethanmorelmushrooms.co/home)

Non-flowering plants – Dr. Bob Klips, [klips.1@osu.edu](mailto:klips.1@osu.edu) (3:45 – 5 p.m.)

Read Field guide 166-185

Mar. 28: trees? Ch 7 and Field guide 114-165

Ap. 4: wildflowers? Field guide 48-113

Sat./Sun., Ap. 7 & 8 OR Ap. 14 & 15

**Offsite** extra credit Field trip – Highland's Nature Sanctuary and surrounding area

Ap. 11:

**Offsite** Field Trip: Streams – Debbie Ruppensburg, [ruppensburg@metroparks.net](mailto:ruppensburg@metroparks.net)

meet at Big Darby Metropark

Read Field guide 362 & 3, 392 & 3

Ap. 18:

**Offsite** Field Trip: Wildflowers – Debbie Ruppensburg

meet at Big Darby Metropark

**Plot Study DUE**

Wed., Ap. 25, 4-5:45 p.m.:

**Comprehensive ID Test** – in classroom: entire Field guide and all ID lectures