

The course is held in May, after Commencement, but before Summer Session I begins, as this is the period of peak bird migration. Thus, it does not interfere with the scheduling of any other course at UNCA except for Field Herpetology, which is a travel course taught every other summer, and possibly other travel courses the Biology Department might offer during May. Travel courses cost more for students, as they have to pay travel and lodging costs, in addition to summer tuition. Since Field Ornithology includes only local field trips, it provides a more economical field experience for students during the summer, and allows them to work at local jobs during the time period covered by the course.

2. Add: On page , new course, **ENVR 351, Herpetology:**

351 Herpetology (4)

Students will examine the extant reptile and amphibian families of the world. Topics will include classification (phylogeny), anatomy, physiology, ecology, and threats to the continued survival of these species. Prerequisites: ENVR 241 or BIOL 210. Odd years Fall.

Impact: We propose adding Herpetology as a permanent offering to be taught every other Fall. This course will serve as an upper-level Ecology course in the Environmental Studies Department. The addition of this course will not change the number of hours required for graduation, but will increase the diversity of lab classes from which students may select electives for the Ecology concentration.

The teaching load for Herpetology will be 6 contact hours every other Fall. Landon Ward has taught this course as a Special Topics course three times, and it was fully enrolled each time: Fall 2014 (23 students enrolled); Fall 2015 (19 students enrolled); and Fall 2017 (20 students enrolled).

Rationale: The addition of this course allows students majoring in Environmental Studies a greater diversity of upper-level Ecology electives from which to choose while completing their majors. Even with this course, nearly every upper-level ecology lab elective fills during registration each semester. Herpetology will explore important topics such as classification, anatomy, physiology, population declines, and many other topics of interest. Environmental Studies students will benefit from taking this course, as herpfauna are indicator species and are some of the first species to show declines when environmental quality becomes impaired. Knowledge of herpfauna is required or highly beneficial for many jobs in the ecology field. There is increasing global conservation interest in these species, and students in environmental fields will benefit from having herpetological experience.

3. Delete: On page 156, in the **Concentration in Ecology and Environmental Biology:**

“...18 hours of Ecology and Biology electives chosen from BIOL 210 or 211 (whichever is not selected above), 320, 322, 323, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 340, 350, 351, 356, 357, 360, 442; or ENVR 312, 322, 323, 341, 343, 346, 347, 348, 349, 358, 360, 390, 391, 396.”

Add: On page 156, in place of deleted entry:

“...18 hours of Ecology and Biology electives chosen from BIOL 210 or 211 (whichever is not selected above), 320, 322, 323, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 340, 350, 351, 356, 357, 360, 442; or ENVR **302**, 312, 322, 323, 341, 343, 346, 347, 348, 349, **351**, 358, 360, 390, 391, 396.”