BIOL 104X (F01 & F02)  Natural History of Alaska, Fall 2004

Bunnell Aud., MWF 0800-0900 &
Irving 103, R 0945-1245 (F01) or 1400-1700 (F02)

Instructor: Douglas Schamel, 305B Bunnell; 474-6297, ffdls@uaf.edu
Office Hours: M 0930-1030 & T 1030-1130
***TA: David Miller,

Required books: "Wild Harmony" by Pruitt. Douglas & McIntyre (Publ.)
Recommended: "Life in the Cold" (3rd Ed.) by Marchant. New England Press.
On Reserve: "Selected Readings".

About this course: This is a Core Science Course. You will learn about science as a
"way of knowing"; you will practice the methods of Western science in both lecture and
lab. We will examine the interface of Western and Indigenous science as often as
possible. We will discuss societal implications of material covered.

Course goals: You will hopefully become more curious about the natural world, and
more competent with science skills.

Student Learning Outcomes (examples): You will demonstrate your skills at building
and critiquing scientific studies; you will locate and read scientific literature; you will
analyze and report scientific data; you will compile an illustrated science report.

Instructional methods: Lecture time will be a mixture of lecture, discussion, and small
group activities. Lab sessions will be a mixture of field excursions, hypothesis-
building/data gathering/analysis/discussion, and demonstrations.

Course policies: Attendance is strongly recommended at lectures; most of the lecture
material is NOT found in the texts for the course. I do not take attendance in lecture.
Lab attendance is expected; **any student who misses 5 or more lab sessions will fail the
course, automatically.**

We are not able to schedule make-up labs. If you need to attend a different lab
section for some reason, please contact the instructor.

If you miss a quiz or an exam, contact the instructor immediately (or before the
fact). If you have a valid excuse, you will be allowed to write a make-up exam.

Please do not represent the work of someone else as your own; this is plagiarism,
and is contrary to the UAF Honor Code. To do so will result in an "F".

Support Services: UAF offers support services for students with special needs. If you
have some type of disability or special need, please contact the instructor. We would like
to facilitate your learning as best we can. We will offer in-course assistance via
instructor and TA office hours, as well as review sessions prior to exams.

Evaluation:
Hour exams: 3 in-class hour exams, **100 points each**. Mostly short answer essays, but some Multiple Choice and/or True/False.

**Homework and Quizzes**: Occasional homework that should be rather fun! You will make observations outside and read natural history articles. In-class quizzes will be geared to get you ready for exams. I reserve the right to give announced or unannounced quizzes. **Total: 70 – 100 points**

**Final Exam**: This will cover material after the 3rd exam, plus a comprehensive section covering the entire semester. The top 2 students, plus any student with a grade > 94% will be excused from the Final Exam. (Go for it!). **Value: 75 points**.

**Poster presentation & critiques**: You will research and compose a poster that explores some aspect of Alaskan natural history. These will be displayed for public viewing. **(60 points)**. You will also provide a formal critique of 5 posters **(5 points @)**.

**Laboratory component**: Your work in the laboratory will constitute **25% of your overall grade**. This will be covered in a separate grading policy.

**Extra credit options**: 1. An optional research paper of 5-10 pages, due by 10 December. This must be pre-approved by the instructor. **(15 points)** 2. Attend and report on science lectures OR read extra natural history articles (5 pages each) **(5 points @)**; maximum of 3 lectures/articles combined.

**Final Grade determination**:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>below 59</td>
<td>F</td>
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I reserve the right to adjust grades upwards, if I feel exams were too difficult or some questions were unfair.