

# 2023 - FUN CLASS IN THE SUMMER!

## Coastal Herpetology (BIO 417)



- Summer Session II: June 11 to June 30
  - 3-Week Course, Professor: Dr. Pablo Delis, Biology
  - Chincoteague Bay Field Station, Wallops Island, VA
  - 3 mi from Chincoteague, beach, VA/near Ocean City, MD
- Course Topic:** Herpetology is the study of amphibians and reptiles. Students will get an overview of diversity, natural history, and evolutionary relationships of the frogs, salamanders, caecilians, turtles, crocodylians, lizards, and snakes of the world, with practical emphasis on local taxa. Hands on experience through laboratory and field activities.



### Course Description:

This course will offer students a comprehensive review of amphibian and reptile diversity, emphasizing origins, biogeography, morphology, ecology, behavior, and conservation. Natural history and evolutionary relationships will be the unifying themes. The course is a combination of lecture and laboratory. The laboratory will give students a practical overview of herpetological diversity using preserved as well as live specimen. The practical experience will be also complemented by hands on, field research, and herpetological sampling techniques. The laboratory portion of this class is intended to complement the lectures and will, when possible, follow the subjects discussed in such lectures.

### Top 3 Marketable Skills Gained from This Course:



Teamwork and Critical Thinking  
Herpetological Field Research Techniques  
Local amphibian and reptile species identification



### General Description of Field Activities:

Field trips will take place to Wallops Island, Assateague Island, Savage Neck Dunes Preserve, Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge (Assateague) and other nearby natural sites. Students will spend extended periods of time in the field, up to 8 hours in a given day. Students will carry out mapping and characterization of habitat, deploy trapping equipment, carry out several types of surveys including nocturnal and diurnal.

### Chincoteague Bay Field Station Fees\*:

Salicornia Dorm (Room and Board): \$1692  
Traditional Dorm (Room and Board): \$1542  
Deposit of \$110 (non-refundable)

\* Does not include university tuition or fees.



**Prerequisites:** Principles of Biology I (Biodiversity) Vertebrate Zoology, **or permission of instructor.**

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