

**Course Code & No. - Section:** BIOL 380 - Section 1  
**Course Title (Credits):** Raptors (1)  
**Term & Year:** Spring / 2014  
**Course Ref. No. (CRN):** 10280

**Instructor:** Kirk Hardie, M.S.  
**Phone(s):** 775.220.8785 (weekdays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.)  
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**Office:** None  
**Office Hours:** By appointment only

**Class Meeting Time:** Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 1-3pm; Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 9am-5pm; & Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 9am-4pm  
**Location:** TCES 205

**Prerequisites (from Catalog):** None  
**Corequisites (from Catalog):** None

### Course Description

This is a two day field course that emphasizes the identification, natural history, and ecology of raptors that are wintering in the Sierra Nevada and Great Basin. A two hour lecture, two field trips, and a paper cover the class requirements.

### Student Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Identify winter raptors in the Sierra Nevada
2. Understand factors that determine the distribution and abundance of raptors
3. Research and portray information on avian studies

### Methods of Assessing Student Outcomes

Student outcomes will be assessed using the following:

1. A field journal
2. An essay on an area of raptor research
3. Instructor observation of student skills in the field

### Instructional Strategies

This class will utilize lectures, researching scientific journals, writing an essay and time in the field.

### Required Texts and Materials

1. Field notebook
2. Binoculars (provided by SNC if you do not have access to a pair)

### Recommended Texts and Materials

1. *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North America*; David Allen Sibley; Chanticleer Press; © 2003; ISBN: 0679451218
2. *A Photographic Guide to North American Raptors*; Brian K. Wheeler & Williams S. Clark; Princeton University Press; © 1995; ISBN: 0-691-11644-X

### Attendance

Attendance is required for the lecture and both days in the field. No exceptions.

## Class Requirements

Students are required to have binoculars, a field guide to birds, and a field notebook for every field trip. Cell phones must be turned off or set to 'silent mode' during class and field trips.

## Prim Library Resources

Using the library's resources effectively (not just Internet resources) contributes to developing each of SNC's core themes by exposing students to high quality academic resources, diverse opinions, new ideas, and a future that includes building on a liberal arts education. In this course, you will be expected to utilize the library's resources (either on-site or remotely) as you complete your assignments.

Insert a description of Prim Library resources that you expect your students to use here. For example:

Prim Library Resources for BIOL 380 include, but are not limited to:

1. Electronic databases (for peer-reviewed research articles, reviews, newspaper and magazine articles): Electronic databases most likely to include articles related to your term paper topics are EBSCO: Academic Search Premier, Environment Complete, General Science Collection, GreenFILE, Health Source, Newspaper Source, and TOPICsearch; BioOne; and GREENR.
2. Hardcopy periodicals: Prim Library has current subscriptions for Science, New Scientist, Science News, and National Geographic Magazine. Any of these are likely to have articles on your term paper topic. Full-text articles from many more periodicals are available through the electronic databases.
3. Lib Guides: <http://Libguides.sierranevada.edu> These web pages contain instructions about how to use resources available at Prim Library, how to evaluate the appropriateness of information from the Internet for a research paper, how to cite sources, and other topics related to finding and using information.

## Sanctions for Cheating and/or Plagiarism

### The Honor Code

The faculty of SNC believes students must be held to high standards of integrity in all aspects of college life in order to promote the educational mission of the College and to encourage respect for the rights of others. Each student brings to the SNC community unique skills, talents, values and experiences which, when expressed within the community, contribute to the quality of the educational environment and the growth and development of the individual. Students share with members of the faculty, administration and staff the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment conducive to learning and personal development, where actions are guided by mutual respect, integrity, responsibility and trust. The faculty and students alike must make diligent efforts to ensure high standards are upheld by their colleagues and peers as well as themselves. Therefore faculty and students accept responsibility for maintaining these standards at Sierra Nevada College and are obligated to comply with its regulations and procedures, which they are expected to read and understand.

### Consequences of Violating the Student Honor Code

SNC students and faculty share the responsibility for maintaining an environment of academic honesty. Thus, all are responsible for knowing and abiding by the SNC Faculty/Student Honor Code published in the current SNC Catalog. Faculty are responsible for presenting the Honor Code and the consequences of violating it to students at the start of their classes AND for reporting all incidences of academic dishonesty to the Provost. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes CHEATING, PLAGIARISM and FABRICATION and for refraining from these and other forms of academic dishonesty. Violations of the Honor Code become part of a student's academic record.

1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Student receives a zero for assignment/exam and counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: Student fails course and receives counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: Student is expelled.

### Grading Policy

The +/- grading system will be used. Points will be distributed as follows:

• Field Notebook	10 points	A	90-100%	90-100 points
• Essay	35 points	B	80-89%	80-89 points
• <u>Participation</u>	<u>55 points</u>	C	70-79%	70-79 points
• Total	100 points	D	60-69%	60-69 points
		F	<59%	<59 points

### ADA Accommodations

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, students with a documented disability are eligible for support services and accommodations. If a student wishes to request an accommodation, please contact the Director of Academic Support Services, Henry Conover, at (775) 831-1314 x7534, [hconover@sierranevada.edu](mailto:hconover@sierranevada.edu), office in Prim Library: PL-304.

### The SNC Email System

The SNC email system is the official communication vehicle among students, faculty members and administrative staff and is designed to protect the confidentiality of student information as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 Act (FERPA). Students should check their college email accounts daily during the school year.

Students have a right to forward their SNC e-mail to another e-mail account (for example, @hotmail or @gmail). However, confidentiality of student information protected by FERPA cannot be guaranteed for SNC e-mail forwarded to an outside vendor. Having email redirected does not absolve a student from the responsibilities associated with official communication sent to his or her SNC email account.

### The Sierra Nevada College Mission Statement:

Sierra Nevada College graduates will be educated to be scholars of and contributors to a sustainable world. Sierra Nevada College combines the liberal arts and professional preparedness through an interdisciplinary curriculum that emphasizes entrepreneurial thinking and environmental, social, economic and educational sustainability.

### The Core Themes:

Liberal Arts	Professional Preparedness
Entrepreneurial	Thinking Sustainability

### Class Schedule

Jan. 17	Course Overview
1-3pm	Syllabus, Assignments, Text
	Introduction to Raptor Natural History and Identification
Jan. 18	Field trip to the Carson Valley
9am-5pm	

Jan. 19      Field Trip to the Sierra Valley  
9am-4pm

Feb. 19      Review Paper due at Noon via email