

**Introduction to Companion Avian Medicine (VCSP635)**  
**University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine Hill 130**  
**Quarter 2, 2009**

### **Course Description**

Welcome to the class! This course is designed to provide the future veterinarian with the tools to evaluate, diagnose, and treat pet avian species in clinics and beyond. Although the course will mainly focus on common psittacine species kept as pets, information on columbiform and passerine species will be provided as well. Topics covered will include companion avian anatomy and physiology, husbandry, nutrition, clinical examination, common infectious diseases, and practical surgical techniques.

There are a total of 16 hours in this course. This is less time than you may spend in the veterinary hospital in one day during your fourth year on clinics. Understandably this is not enough time to become capable or comfortable with seeing birds in practice. Avian medicine is in its infancy. Thus, there is much learning left to be done by all of us. Listen, take notes, ask questions, and use the materials from this course as a basis for your reference library for when you DO step into the exam room to meet your first feathered patient.

### **Your final course grade is based on:**

#### **1) Attendance**

We have a limited time to present a large amount of important material. In exotic pet medicine, our texts are for the most part out-dated, thus you cannot learn this stuff from books. Because of this, we feel that you learn the most from being present in class. Attendance will be taken in each class. You are allowed to miss 3 classes without penalty to your grade.

#### **2) Team Based Learning Exercises**

In lieu of a final project, this year you (we, really) are all going to be guinea pigs in a teaching concept which is student-centered, rather than lecturer-centered: Team-Based Learning (TBL). We will still be having on-line quizzes after several classes, but they are folded into each team exercise. There will be four **in-class** team exercises, all of which will be graded. In total, your grades for the TBL exercises will be weighted as much as the on-line quizzes + final project would have been in previous avian courses (or the current reptile course): 85%.

Here are the steps for each TBL:

- 1) Groups are assigned by Dr. Briscoe based on questions you answer about yourself via the Survey Monkey link on Learn.vet. You will be distributed based mainly on how much experience you have had with exotics so that no team will have an advantage over another. There will be 10 groups of 5-7 members each.
- 2) Each of you will individually take the on-line quiz on Learn.vet prior to the TBL. Questions will be based on the lectures from the previous class and reading materials posted on Learn.vet.
- 3) During the first half of class, you will sit with your teams for the TBL (seating chart and group assignments will be posted on Learn.vet) and re-do the on-line quiz

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as a group on worksheets designed to provide you with immediate feedback on questions you got right or wrong (think scratch-off lottery). As needed, we will discuss as a group areas where you had problems. If you got something wrong, you will be given some time to appeal your answer and potentially get credit if you can explain yourself.

4) As time permits, your teams will also be given a real-life case to work through based on what you have learned so far. This is your opportunity to see your new-found knowledge work to save your avian patient.

5) **You will decide as a class how the different aspects of your TBL grade will be weighted.** The grade is based on: individual on-line quiz scores, the score on the quiz you took as a group, peer-reviews or each other, and instructor (that's me) analysis of your individual contribution to the group and to the class.

**3) Course evaluations: You will NOT receive a grade in this course until you turn in your course evaluation.** Instructions for the course evaluations will be provided closer to the course's end.

**The course grade is calculated as follows**

<b>Attendance in 13/16 classes</b> *** Attendance in < 13 classes = 0%	<b>15%</b>
<b>Team Based Learning Project</b>	<b>85%</b>
• Individual on-line quiz score	TBD
• Team quiz score	TBD
• Instructor evaluation of individual contribution	TBD
• Peer evaluation	TBD

**Syllabus**  
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Day	Date	Time	Topic	Instructor
<b>Introduction: The Course and the Birds</b>				
Tue	10/27/09	3:00	Course Overview: grading and introduction to team based learning	Briscoe
	↓	4:00	The Exam Room: Avian Handling and Physical Examination	Briscoe
Thu	10/29/09		<i>Online Individual Quiz 1 Due</i>	
	↓	2:00	Team Based Learning Exercise I Case 1: Husbandry and Welfare Evaluation	Briscoe
<b>Systems-Based Introduction to Anatomy, Physiology, and Evaluation of Normal &amp; Disease</b>				
	↓	3:00	Respiratory and Cardiovascular Systems	Fordham
Thu	11/05/09		<i>Online Individual Quiz 2 Due</i>	
		4:00	Team Based Learning Exercise II Case 2: Respiratory and Cardiovascular Evaluation	Briscoe
	↓	5:00	Gastrointestinal, Hepatic, Urinary Systems	Briscoe
Thu	11/12/09		<i>Online Individual Quiz 3 Due</i>	
	↓	2:00	Team Based Learning Exercise III Case 3: Gastrointestinal and Urinary Evaluation	Briscoe
	↓	3:00	Reproductive and Nervous Systems	Briscoe
<b>Welcome to Clinics: Diagnostics and Therapeutics</b>				
Thu	11/19/09	4:00	Understanding the Numbers: Clinical Pathology I (CBC)	Walton

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Day	Date	Time	Topic	Instructor
	↓	5:00	Understanding the Numbers: Clinical Pathology II (Chem Screen)	Walton
Thu	12/3/09		<i>Online Individual Quiz 4 Due</i>	
	↓	4:00	Team Based Learning Exercise IV Case 4: Bloodwork and Reproductive Evaluation	Briscoe
	↓	5:00	Basic Clinical Techniques	Latney
<b>Why are you really here? Board Review!</b>				
Tue	12/8/09	1:00	Bugs and Birds: Infectious Disease I	Briscoe
	↓	2:00	Bugs and Birds: Infectious Disease II	Briscoe
<b>How DO you live with a wild animal?</b>				
Thu	12/10/09	2:00	Basic Concepts of Parrot Behavior I	Clayton
	↓	3:00	Basic Concepts of Parrot Behavior II	Clayton

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**Books on Reserve in the Veterinary Library**  
**Introduction to Companion Avian Medicine (VCSP635)**  
*(Revised October 2009)*

None of these books are required reading for this course. Rather, this is a list of suggested readings and potential members of your burgeoning collection of avian veterinary literature. Many of these are also required reading for the American College of Zoological Medicine boards (aczm.org). Unless otherwise marked, most of these books are readily available through [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) or the bookstore at [www.vin.com](http://www.vin.com).

**General Taxonomy and Husbandry**

- *Parrots of the World: An Identification Guide*, Forshaw JM, Princeton University Press, 2006
- *Birds for Dummies*, Spadafori G and Speer B, For Dummies Publishing, 1999
- *Psittacine Aviculture, Perspectives, Techniques and Research*, Schubot RM, Clubb KM, Clubb SL, Aviculture Breeding and Research Center, Loxahatchee Florida, 1992
- *Comparative Avian Nutrition*, Klasing KC, CABI Publishing, New York, 1998
- *Manual of Parrot Behavior*, Leuscher A, Blackwell Publishing Professional, 2006
- *Hand-Rearing Birds*, Gage L and Duerr R, Wiley-Blackwell, 2007

**General Avian Medicine**

- *Avian Medicine: Principles and Application*, Ritchie BW, Harrison GJ, and Harrison LR, Wingers Publishing, 1994
- *Avian Medicine and Surgery*, Altman, Clubb, Dorrestein, Quesenberry, W.B. Saunders Co, 1997
- *BSAVA Manual of Psittacine Birds*, Harcourt-Brown N and Chitty J, Blackwell Publishing, 2005
- *Avian Medicine*, Samour J, Mosby, 2008
- *Handbook of Avian Medicine*, Tully TN, Dorrestein GM, and Jones AK, Saunders, 2009

**Anatomy and Physiology**

- *Manual of Ornithology: Avian Structure & Function*, Proctor NS and Lynch PJ, Yale University Press, 1993
- *Sturkie's Avian Physiology*, 5th edition, Academic Press, Harcourt Brace and Co, 2000
- Out of print or hard to find, but if you're serious about birds, it would be a good idea to xerox at least some of these books from the library for your own collection (or keep your eyes peeled at used book sales for these titles):
  - *Birds, Their Structure and Function*, King AS, McLelland J, 2nd edition, Bailliere Tindall Publishing, 1984
  - *Avian Surgical Anatomy*, Orosz SE, Ensley PK, Haynes CJ, W.B. Saunders Co., 1992
  - *Atlas of Avian Radiographic Anatomy*, Smith and Smith, W.B. Saunders Co., 1992

**Clinical and Anatomical Pathology**

- *Avian and Exotic Animal Hematology and Cytology*, Campbell TW and Ellis C, Blackwell Publishing Limited, 2007
- *Pathology of Pet and Aviary Birds*, 1<sup>st</sup> edition, Schmidt RE, Reavill DR, and Phalen DL, Blackwell Publishing, 2003
- *Laboratory Medicine: Avian and Exotic Pets*, Fudge AM, Saunders, 2000

**Infectious Disease**

- *Avian Viruses: Function and Control*. B. Ritchie, Wingers Publishing, 1995.

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