Field Trips

You will be required to make one self guided field trip for 10 points toward your total course grade. You may make additional field trips for extra credit points. Some suggested places to go are listed below:

**Austin or San Antonio Zoo**
Make a list of mammals in 5 different orders (see your text or website)
Select one animal and observe its behavior for at least 15 minutes and describe it: what is it doing, why is it doing it, what organ systems are involved, of what evolutionary advantage is it
Select a nonnative animal and describe what impact it might have if released into the central Texas environment

**Cave Tour**
Visit any of the caves in the area and write a paper that focuses on the biology and ecology of caves: eg what kinds of bacteria, animals, plants, fungi etc you find there, food chains, adaptations to cave environments, etc.

**Congress Avenue Bat Colony**
What species of bat, common name and binomial name?
When did they start their flight, how long did it last
In what direction did they head when leaving the bridge?
Write a short paragraph on the biology of this species of bat, where it lives, what it eats, its range, etc

**LBJ Wildflower Center or Zilker Gardens**
Make a list of 10 flowering plant species (angiosperms) that are currently flowering
Make a list of 10 flowering plant species that are not currently in flower
Make a list of 5 nonflowering plants (eg. mosses, ferns, conifers) found there
Make a list of 10 different animals found there

**Natural Bridge Wildlife Ranch**
(located between San Antonio and New Braunfels, exit #175 off IH 35, 7 mi west on Natural Bridge Caverns Road)
Make a list of three native birds, three native mammals, three native reptiles THAT YOU ACTUALLY SAW
Name 5 different species of exotic wildlife not normally found in the US, describe the similarities and the differences of their central texas habitat compared to their native habitats

**New Braunfels Snake Farm**
Make a list of 5 reptiles that are from the United States; and 5 reptiles that are not found in the US that are on display
List 3 species of Poisonous snakes on display and summarize information about each one
List ten different kinds of mammals on display.

**Texas Natural Science Center (formerly Texas Memorial Museum (UT campus))**
Make a list of 10 fossil animals or plants displayed in the museum that once lived in the Austin area
Make a list of the endangered species currently on display there
Name one example each of as many classes of animals as you can find on display there (see your text or a website for examples of animal classes)

**Texas State Aquarium (Corpus Christi, Tx)**
List 10 different invertebrate animals that you saw
Describe the outdoor marsh exhibit; name some plants and animals in the exhibit
List or describe 5 different kinds of seaweeds that you saw
What was the largest animal on exhibit?
What was the simplest animal on exhibit?
How many different species of sea turtles did they have? Which species did they have the most of?
Texas Coast (Port Aransas, Galveston, Corpus Christi, Padre Island):

Describe the most important environmental factors affecting life on the coast and in coastal waters
Walk the beach and count the number of “shells” in a 100 ft stretch; note the total number AND the number of different kinds
Collect a few samples of DEAD shells (or photograph them), try to identify them and turn them in with your report
Describe, and if possible identify, 3 different kinds of plants growing in the back dunes of the beach
Make a list of the major species of birds and mammals that you actually see at the coast (not what you think is “supposed” to be there).