# **Taxidermy**

Spring 2013-2014

- There is a project cost for taxidermy. We will try to combine orders to get

the best prices on materials possible.

- A really rough guess at the cost to stuff a bird will be somewhere around

$15 for body, eyes, wires, preservative, clay, and pins.

**- You need to gather your specimens now**. You will need;

1. A pigeon- practice bird (game farm pheas???????)
2. At least two pheasants.
3. Nice waterfowl (ducks). Around 2-5

- If you need a project, talk to people now to help!!!!!!

- Other possibilities for projects:

- European head mount for deer, big game.

* Turkey tail, beard mounts
* Pheasant tail fans, wreaths.
* Deer antler mounts.

- Fish????

- Pheasant, duck, geese, turkey head mounts.

* Geese

- Care for specimens:

1. Get nice birds, late season birds have better feathers and plumage. **Check the bird for pinfeathers, pinfeathers are not a good thing**.
2. Handle with care, every feather makes a difference.
3. Wrap the head in dry paper towels, fold it next to the body, wrap the whole body in paper towels, then freeze in a bag until you need it.
4. Second method: freeze it solid in a nylon stocking, then in a plastic bag until you need it for class.

- Other thoughts:

* Taxidermy takes patience. You may mess up on some projects, we’ll get through it.
* Keep your eyes open for nice, unique **driftwood** and slab wood. Gather it now before you have to move the snow.
* Small mammals are pretty easy to skin, but tough to mount nicely. Most of the time they look scruffy and beat up.
* If you find something dead, don’t even think about it.
* Game farm animals are fine. **Legal animals only**.

Topics covered:

-Mammal anatomy -Mammal physiology

-Bird Anatomy -Bird physiology

-Fish Anatomy -Fish physiology

-Comparative anatomy -Antler scoring

-Natural history of Minnesota birds, mammals, and fish.

-Natural color enhancement and painting using airbrush techniques.

-Natural environment base construction

Grades:

-Each day you will be given points for effort:

-how hard you worked

-clean-up

-did you get going on your project

-did you actually work or get someone else

to do your work.

-Projects are given points /a score. Things that are calculated into your project score would include initial flaws to your project, creativity, prep. natural history of your project design, effort, assistance to others.

- To be successful in taxidermy you need to work.

Grades are calculated from the following scale:

93-100% A 73-76 C

* 1. A- 70-72 C-

87-89 B+ 67-69 D+

* 1. B 63-66 D

80-82 B- 60-62 D-

77-79 C+ Below 60% F

**Discipline Guidelines:** 1. Respect the rights of others

1. When given time to work, use it.
2. Enjoy the class, have fun, but use common sense.

# ANY SERIOUS OR REPEAT BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS WILL BE SENT TO THE OFFICE