

CLASS SYLLABUS

BIOL 3820 Vertebrate Zoology Fall 2020

CLASS TIME: MW: 2:00 - 3:15 p.m.

LABORATORY: F: 12:00 – 2:50 p.m.

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Colleen McDonough

OFFICE HOURS: **Monday 3:15-4:00 p.m., Wednesday 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., F 3:15 – 4:00 p.m.**, can stop by at other times - just not before lectures or labs. Check schedule on my office door.

OFFICE: 2086 Bailey Science Center

PHONE: 333-5759 (main office), 333-5764 (my office)

EMAIL: cmcdonou@valdosta.edu

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course will:

- address diversity within each vertebrate class
- cover major trends or adaptations within organ systems
- identify the taxonomy and phylogeny of the different animals studied
- address natural history within each group studied

Standards

VSU General Education Outcomes on webpage:

(<http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/VSUGeneralEducationOutcomes.shtml>) This course meets outcomes 1. and 4.

Department of Biology Educational Outcomes. This course meets outcome 1 and 2.

PREREQUISITES: BIOL 1107, 1108 or permission of instructor

REQUIRED TEXT: Vertebrate Life, 10th Edition, F. Harvey Pough and Christine M. Janis, Sinaur Associates, New York

COURSE POLICY:

Attendance: While I do not take attendance in lecture, you should come. It is difficult to learn lecture material from someone else's notes. My powerpoints mostly consist of images and I do not post them. If you miss class, get the notes from someone who attended. You should be writing the notes down and drawing the figures because of hand memory.

Important note: If you want to record the lectures or me, you need my permission.

Laboratory attendance is required. Attendance will be taken at the beginning and end of class. During lab, I may stop to explain something. Because of this, you will need permission to leave lab room.

It is university policy that if you miss 20% of your classes you fail the course. In this case if you miss 20% of the laboratories (more than 2 absences) you will fail the lab section of this course.

Because science is an activity, you cannot get credit for laboratories that you missed.

GRADING POLICY: Your grade will be based on a total of 540 points:

400 points from lecture tests (4 tests, 100 points each)

100 points from laboratory practical tests (2 tests), notebook and any assignments

30 points from oral report and associated written paper

15 points for wearing masks CORRECTLY and social distancing every lecture and lab

Total: 545 A: (90%) 490-545; B (80%) 436-489; C (70%) 381-435; D (60%) 327-380; F <327

--Lecture tests will be a mixture of multiple choice, short answer, short essay and essay questions. Material covered will be from lecture, reading specifically assigned and lab material. Any complaints about grading must be made within one week of receiving the exam back. No grades will be changed after that time.

--Labs will be a mix of dissections and slide or specimen identification. Grades will be based on lab practicals where questions and identifications will come from the materials covered during lab or specimens observed during labs. There may be field components to labs. In these cases we will be socially distanced or the lab will be done on your own.

--Oral presentation will be on selected journal articles on topics in vertebrate zoology that I provide for you. More on that later in the semester.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students requiring classroom accommodations or modifications to testing, such as more time, need to be documented with the Access Office for Students with Disabilities. These students should discuss needs with me at the beginning of the semester. Students not registered must contact the Access Office, Farbar Hall, Phone; 245-2498. Website: <http://www.valdosta.edu/access/>

FEDERAL PRIVACY ACT: It is illegal to release personal information about an individual to others. Therefore, I cannot give out your grades to anyone but yourself. I cannot give them out over phone or through email unless with written permission.

CLASS BEHAVIOR: Any student engaging in disruptive behavior will be asked to leave lecture or lab. They will forfeit the chance to hand in the work resulting from that laboratory.

Electronics USE: Electronics not being used for note taking must be put away during the class and the laboratory. Individuals swiping or texting during class is very distracting. I may ask people to stop using their phones if it starts to really bother me.

PLAGARISM AND OTHER FORMS OF STEALING: Adhere to the policy listed on the Biology Department's website (<http://www.valdosta.edu/biology/>). See list of items under "FOR STUDENTS"). If you are so time stressed that you can't individually do the work required in this course, consider withdrawing rather than face the repercussions and failing the course. More on this later. I will be using various ways to detect plagiarism and will not tolerate it. If caught cheating students will be given a zero on the assignment or test and will be reported to the Dean of Students. If caught a second time, the student will fail the class. Remember, if you allow another student to copy from your paper or test, you also have cheated and the repercussions are the same.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Labor Day: Sept 7th - NO CLASS

Mid-Term: Oct 8th,

Withdrawal deadline: Oct 15th

Last day of in class instruction: Nov 23rd

Final Exam: on line, emailed with a time limit or take home.

Tentative weekly Lecture Schedule – sections in book are subject to change

Week of

Aug 17 Introduction to group, origins, hemichordates, urochordates, cephalochordates- overview, phylogeny,

Aug 24 Introduction continued, jawless fishes cartilaginous fishes

August 31 Cartilaginous fishes, bony fish - Sarcopterygii

Sept 7 Bony fishes – Actinopterygii

Sept 14 Bony fishes, Actinopterygii

Sept 21 Tetrapod origins, amphibians

Sept 28 Amphibians, Amniotes

Oct 5 Amniotes

Oct 12 Turtles, squamates

Oct 19 Squamates, crocodylians,

Oct 26 Diapsids, avian origins

Nov 2 Birds

Nov 9 Birds, Mammals

Nov 16 Mammals

Nov 23 (Test 3)

Test 1 – September 16th - Wednesday

Test 2 - October 19th - Monday

Test 3 November 23rd - Monday

Test 4 Final – Cumulative - on line, emailed with a time limit or take home.

Tentative weekly Laboratory Schedule –

Week

Aug 22 – Introduction to powerpoint notebook.

Aug 29 – Major advances in animal kingdom, major groups

Sept 5 – Fishes, dissection, major groups

Sept 12 – Fish field lab

Sept 19 – Frog dissection, herp diversity

Sept 26 – TBA

Oct 2 – **Lab Practical I Group A at 12:00 p.m.; Group B at 1:25 p.m.**

Oct 9 – Socially distant bird watching on campus

Oct 16 Bird diversity, morphology, dissection

Oct 23 Reports

Oct 30 Finish Reports, start mammals -

Nov 6 Mammal diversity, tissues, structures, morphology, pig dissection

Nov 13 Pig dissection

Nov 20 **Lab practical II; Group B at 12:00 p.m.; Group A at 1:25 p.m.**