

**BIOL 3980/5980 - Mammalogy, Fall, 2023**

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Lecture: 12 MWF 1024 BSC  
 Lab: 2:00-4:50 Thurs, 1088 BSC  
 Office Hrs: 1:30-3 MW; F 1-3; other  
 times by appointment

Lecture Text: Feldhamer, G.A., et al. 2020. Mammalogy: adaptation, diversity, and ecology, 5th Ed. Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, Baltimore. 725 pp.

Useful links: <https://mammaldiversity.org>  
<https://www.departments.bucknell.edu/biology/resources/msw3/>  
<https://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Mammalia/>  
 Mammal Diversity Database <http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4139818>

**Tentative Lecture Schedule**

Week	Lecture Topics	Chapt. In Text
1	Intro., gen. mammal characteristics; Phylogenetics; taxonomy of mammals	Skim 1, 4, 6; 2, 3
1,2	Locomotion; Skull, Skeleton, Teeth	6; 4(part)
3	Integument; Feeding; Thermo-/Osmo-regulation; Nervous/Sensory Systems; Reproduction	6, 7, 8 9
4*	Paleontology and mammal evolution	4
5	Biogeography; Modern mammal diversity	5; "Part 3"
5	Monotremes and marsupials	10
6*	Old "Insectivore" orders	17, 11, 14
7	Chiroptera	21
8	Primates	15
9	Carnivora	18
10*	Xenarthra, et al.; "Subungulates"	13, 12, 18 (part)
10,11	Perissodactyla	19
11,12	Artiodactyla	19
12	Cetacea	20
13,14	Rodentia	16
15	Lagomorpha	16
FINAL *	Fri., Dec. 8, 10:15 am - 12:15 pm	

\*indicates approximate times of 4 60-100 pt. exams; TOTAL ≈ 360 points. Max. Course Point Total (+ p. 2) ≈ 575 pts. Lowest A/B/C/D= 90/80/70/60% or lower.

## Laboratory in Mammalogy

Manual: Martin, R.E., R.H. Pine, and A.F. DeBlase. 2012. A manual of mammalogy with keys to families of the world, 3rd ed. McGraw Hill, Boston. 352 pp.

Tentative Lab Schedule	Date	Chpts.
1. Skull, hair, external characters	Aug. 17	2, 4, 5
2. Teeth, post-cranial skeleton	Aug. 24	3, 6, 7
***** 1st Lab Practical Exam ***** Aug. 31		
3. Use of Keys; Field Collection	Aug. 31	8, 9
4. Monotremes, Marsupials, "Insectivores"	Sep. 7	10-12
5. Chiropterans & Primates	Sep. 14	14-16
6. TBD	Sep. 21	
***** 2nd Lab Practical Exam ***** Sep. 28		
7. Carnivores I	Sep. 28	19
8. Carnivores II	Oct. 5	19
9. Perissodactyls; Artiodactyls Xenarthrans, Cetaceans, Subungulates	Oct. 12	17, 18, 20 21, 24-27
***** 3rd Lab Practical Exam ***** Oct. 19		
10. Special Project Work Day	Oct. 19	
11. Rodents I	Oct. 26	23
11. Rodents II	Nov. 2	"
12. Rodents III, Lagomorphs	Nov. 9	" +22
13. Rodents + Lagomorphs review	Nov. 16	"
14. NO LAB NO LAB	Nov. 23	
***** 4th Lab Practical Exam ***** Nov. 30		

LAB GRADING: 1) four lab quizzes stressing identification, 35-40 pts. each, ~145 pts; 2) special project, 50 pts (due Dec. 4); 3) small museum specimen preparation, 10 pts. (**Optional for 3980; Mandatory for 5980**); 4) attendance, participation, attitude, 10 points. TOTAL ~215 pts. **Attendance at all laboratories is mandatory. More than one lab absence WILL result in points deducted from total; arriving late or leaving lab early counts as an absence!**

The student is responsible for all material from lecture and assigned readings unless otherwise instructed. You are responsible for all material and information given or assigned during class time *regardless* of any reason for missing class.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students requiring classroom or testing accommodations because of documented disabilities should discuss their needs with the instructor at the beginning of the semester and register with the VSU Access Office (229-245-2498). For more information on disabilities and Title IX, see <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/syllabi.php> (#9).

The last day to drop this or any full-term course (for W) is October 12, 2023.

## **Statement on COVID-19 Protocols**

VSU, the CDC, and I strongly encourage students to be vaccinated with the most up-to-date vaccine against COVID-19, and that process is both easy and free. It can be done at the Student Health Center—call them at 333-5886 for an appointment. VSU advises that students who are not yet fully vaccinated will wear a fitted facial covering of nose and mouth at all times indoors; If you should develop symptoms or come in close contact with someone who has tested positive or has COVID symptoms, contact the Student Health Center (229-333-5886) and/or make an appointment with the Lowndes County Public Health Service COVID testing center by calling 844-955-1499, and do not come to class until you receive a negative test and your symptoms clear (or 10 days after symptoms start if you do not get a test). This is a face-to-face course and you are expected to be in class (lecture and lab); any special accommodations will require documentation (including from Student Affairs). VSU's Coronavirus FAQ page is <https://www.valdosta.edu/health-advisory/faq.php>. For whatever reason you might miss class, you must inform the instructor ASAP you will be (or have been) absent and receive instructions for making up work.

## **Statement on Attendance, Decorum, and Academic Honesty**

Attendance: As previously stated, absence from lab, or showing up late, or leaving early, WILL cost you points on your final grade, after the first offense. Furthermore, I reserve the right to penalize the grades of students who are habitually absent from or habitually late to lecture, or who are habitually disruptive in lecture.

Disruptive Behavior: a) absolutely no cell phone use in lecture or lab (except that which is part of the lab—e.g., using the camera app); b) no talking or voluntary outbursts in lecture... Note: a sneeze is involuntary; the reflexive “bless-you” is voluntary and therefore controllable; just repress that urge, please!

Academic Dishonesty: cheating of any kind on an assignment or exam, or committing plagiarism on a written paper, will not be tolerated and will result in failure on the assignment, and possibly in the course, plus other penalties as may be allowed by VSU policy (consult the VSU Student Handbook<sup>2</sup>).