

CLASS SYLLABUS BIOL 3820 Vertebrate Biology Fall 2014

CLASS TIME: TR 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

LABORATORY: W 1:00 – 3:50 p.m.

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Colleen McDonough

OFFICE HOURS: Monday 10-11; Wednesday 11-12; or by appt.

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 (Page 116 in 2010-2011 Undergraduate Catalog). This course meets outcome 1 and 2.

PREREQUISITES: BIOL 1107, 1108 or permission of instructor

REQUIRED TEXT: Vertebrate Biology, 2nd Edition, Donald Linzey, Johns Hopkins University Press

COURSE POLICY:

Attendance: Get to lecture on time. You need to attend lecture. It is difficult to learn lecture material from someone else's notes. I do not give out my powerpoints. They are mostly images anyway. Get the notes from someone if you have to miss class. I do not want computers open or electronics on. I have peer-reviewed too many colleagues and have seen that 50% of the computers are on social media, watching movies, on-line shopping and the like. I also believe in hand memory and I want you to write the notes and draw the figures I am presenting. You are not going to be taking pictures of the notes that are on the board or take videos of my lectures (unless of a documented disability).

Laboratory attendance is required. 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. In addition, because science is an activity, you cannot get credit for assignments, quizzes in which you did not participate in doing the laboratory. Attendance is taken at the BEGINNING of class. Also, if you LEAVE CLASS for an inordinate amount of time, you will be considered absent and lose points. If you have to go to the restroom and are gone for long periods; either you are sick or need to eat more fiber. You are not to leave and let other students do work for you. If you know you will have issues with

timing, let me know now. Some labs will be in the field and so we will be leaving immediately at 1:00 on Wednesday.

GRADING POLICY: Your grade will be based on a total of 530 points:

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

100 points laboratory practical tests (2-3 tests) and assignments

25 point oral report and associated written paper

5 lab participation points

Total: 530 A: (90%) 477-530; B (80%) 424-476; C (70%) 371-423; D (60%) 318-370; F <318

--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 field labs and wet labs. There will be a number of dissections. Grades will be based on lab practicals where questions and identifications will come from the materials covered during lab or specimens observed during field labs.

--Oral presentation will be on selected topics in vertebrate biology. More on that later.

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, Farber 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 must be turned off during the class and the laboratory. Leaving lecture or lab to answer your phone is disruptive to other students. An individual texting is very distracting to a speaker and rude.

PLAGIARISM 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 assignment or text and will be reported to the dean of students. If caught a second time, 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

Mid-Term: Oct 2, – Last day to drop

Labor Day: Sept 1, NO CLASS

Thanksgiving : Nov 24-28 - NO CLASS

Final for this class: Friday, December 12, 10:15-12:15

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

Week of

Aug 18 Introduction to group, origins, hemichordates, urochordates, cephalochordates- Read chapter 1 – overview, parts of 2 – phylogeny, chapter 4

Aug 25, jawless fishes, chapter 4

Sept 1 cartilaginous fishes, Bony fishes – sarcopterygii Chapter 5

Sept 8 Test 1

Sept 15 Bony fishes, Sarcopterygii and Actinopterygii Chapter 5 - handouts

Sept 22 Bony fishes, Sarcopterygii and Actinopterygii Chapter 5 handouts

Sept 29 Tetrapod origins, amphibians chapter 6

Oct 6 Amphibians, Early amniotes chapter 6, 7

Oct 13 Test 2

Oct 20 Leipidosaur chapter 8

Oct 27 testudines, crocodilian, avian origins chapter 8

Nov 3 birds, test 3

Nov 10 birds

Nov 17 mammals chapter 9

Nov 24 Thanksgiving

Dec 1 mammals chapter 9

Final – Dec 12th, Friday.

Tentative weekly Laboratory Schedule –

Week of

Aug 20 – no lab

Aug 27 – major advances in animal kingdom, major groups

Sept 3 – fishes, dissection, major groups

Sept 10 – fish field lab

Sept 17 – TBA

Sept 24 – herps field lab

Oct 1 – frog dissection, herp diversity

Oct 8 – Lab Practical

Oct 15 Reports

Oct 22 Bird diversity, dissection

Oct 29 Lab to Wakulla Springs/St Marks on Nov 1st

Nov 3 bird diversity, dissection

Nov 10 Pig dissection

Nov 17 Pig dissection

Nov 26 Thanksgiving

Dec 3 lab practical