

Course Syllabus
BISC 331 Comparative Anatomy of the Vertebrates

Instructor: Dr. Christopher Leary
Semester: Fall 2014
Lecture: Shoemaker Hall Room 323
Lecture times: Tues, Thurs 11:00-12:15

Office Location: Shoemaker Room 416
Office Hours: 1:00-4:00, Tues & Thurs
E-mail: cjleary@olemiss.edu
Phone: 915-1087

Laboratory Instructor: Sarah Crocker-Buta
Lab Location: Shoemaker Hall Room 510

Lab times: Section 1: Wed 11-1:50
Section 2: Wed 2-4:50
Section 3: Thurs 2:00-4:50

Overview: This course introduces students to the morphological diversity of vertebrates. We will examine vertebrate form and function in an evolutionary context and, in doing so, we will cover topics in genetics, systematics, histology, embryology and physiology. Upon completion of this course, students should be able to integrate various concepts and themes to understand variation in morphology across vertebrate taxa.

Text: "Vertebrates: Comparative Anatomy, Function, Evolution" 5th edition. McGraw Hill Publisher.
Author: K.V. Kardong.

Laboratory manual and materials: "Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy: A Laboratory Dissection Guide", 6th edition. McGraw Hill Publisher. Authors: Kardong, K.V., and Zalisko, E.J.

Purchase a dissection kit.

Attendance: You are responsible for all information and material provided during class. Attendance is required.

Exam and quiz make-up policy: Students can make-up missed exams or quizzes only under the following circumstances: 1) illness with physician documentation, 2) family emergency with contact person provided, 3) University-sponsored function with written documentation from sponsoring department. I must be contacted either before the exam/quiz or within 24 hours after the exam/quiz is given to arrange a time to make-up the exam.

Cell Phones: The use of cell phones during class will not be tolerated. Please turn off your cell phones before entering the classroom.

Academic integrity: In cases involving dishonesty or misconduct, procedures outlined by the University Academic Discipline Committee will be followed.

LECTURE & LAB SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Text Chapter</u>	<u>Lecture Topic</u>	<u>Lab</u>
Week 1 (Aug 25-29)	1	Introduction: a brief history, general morphological concepts, phylogeny and geological time	Skull
Week 2 (Sept 1-5)	2, 3	Labor Day (Sept 1 st). Chordate and vertebrate phylogeny/characteristics	Skull
Week 3 (Sept 8-12)	4, 5	Design: size, shape, biomechanics, biophysics and life history	Skeleton

Week 4 (Sept 15-19)	6, 7	Integument and the skull	Skeleton
Week 5 (Sept 22-26)	7, 8	The skull and axial skeleton	LAB EXAM I (50pts)
Week 6 (Sept 29-Oct 3)	9	The appendicular skeleton EXAM I (100 pts)	Muscle
Week 7 (Oct 6-10)	10	The muscular system	Muscle
Week 8 (Oct 13-17)	11	The respiratory system	Muscle
Week 9 (Oct 20-24)	12	The circulatory system	LAB EXAM II (50 pts)
Week 10 (Oct 27-31)	13	The digestive system EXAM II (100pts)	Circulatory
Week 11 (Nov 3-7)	14	The urogenital system	Circulatory
Week 12 (Nov 10-14)	15	The endocrine system	Circulatory/ Internal organs
Week 13 (Nov 17-21)	16	The nervous system	Internal organs
Week 14 (Nov 24-28)		THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	
Week 15 (Dec 1-5)	17	Sensory organs	LAB EXAM III (50pts)
Week 16 (Dec 8-12)		EXAM III: Final Exam (100 pts)	

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

LECTURE

3 Exams (100 points each).....300 points
5 Quizzes (10 points each).....50 points

Total points from lecture: **350**

LABORATORY

3 Lab exams (50 points each).....150 points
5 Lab quizzes (10 points).....50 points

Total points from lab: **200**

Total course points = 550

Grading Scale: The “plus/minus” grade system is not used in this course. Final grades are calculated based on the percentage of the total points earned.

Final grades: A = 90-100%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, F = 59% or less