

INVERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY SYLLABUS

BISC 338

Dr. Gary Gaston; email bygaston@olemiss.edu; phone 915-7162; office hours posted outside office in Shoemaker Hall, Room 304.

Course Content: This course is a survey of the invertebrate phyla with lectures on ecology, evolution, and behavior. Lectures for BISC 338 are in room 213; labs are in room 213. Dr. Gaston will lecture preceding lab occasionally to ensure that we cover all material. All students are expected to attend class and lab.

Goals and Requirements:

We will study the invertebrate (animal) phyla. You will be expected to be familiar with the names and characteristics of the phyla, be able to identify specimens and their morphology, and discuss their ecology and evolution. We will leave for field trips promptly when lab begins, so be on time. You will not be allowed to make up missed labs.

Outcomes and Objectives: After completing this course successfully, a student should be able to discuss the evolution of invertebrates, understand the differences among phyla, identify characteristic anatomical features of representative organisms in each phylum, recite the taxonomy and hierarchy of invertebrate binomial nomenclature, and intelligently discuss the ecological role of representative organisms in the major phyla.

Methods of Evaluation:

Attendance and participation in class and lab are mandatory and may be used to determine your grade. There will be 2 tests in lecture (midterm and comprehensive final), 2 lab practicals, plus a fifth composite grade (calculated from several quizzes, graded assignments, and in-class assignments). Thus, you have 5 scores averaged for your grade (2 in class, 2 in lab, and a grade that is the composite of your quizzes and assignments; all equally weighted at 20% each). All tests and exams will include previous material (comprehensive tests). Bonus points (0.5% each) may be earned during pop tests and outdoor activities. These bonus points will be added to your final average and may affect your grade. Similarly, unexcused absences (0.5% each) will be subtracted from your grade. The grade scale for this course is: A = 90 - 100% of total points; B = 80 - 89%; C = 70 - 79%; D = 60 - 69%; F = 0 - 59%. I will not assign + and - levels to your final grades.

Please make an appointment with Dr. Gaston if you need to review your tests. They are available for review one week after the tests are returned (not after that).

MAKE-UP EXAMS: A single comprehensive make-up exam (for the tests) will be given the day of the final exam. Except in extreme cases you cannot make up quizzes or pop tests, and you will be given a zero for those tests missed.

CLASS ATTENDANCE: Students are strongly encouraged to attend classes. Attendance **may be used in calculating your final grade**, and students with more than 3 unexcused absences may be dropped from the course. As stated above, a percentile (0.5% each) will be subtracted from your final grade for unexcused absences. Excused absences must be requested by email to Dr. Gaston within 48 hours of the class missed.

SCHEDULE:

EVOLUTION

PRINCIPLES

ORGANISMS AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT

Habitats and Ecology

Adaptive Characteristics

Community Structure

SURVEY OF PHYLA

Porifera

Cnidaria and Ctenophora

Platyhelminthes

Nemertea

Aschelminthes

Mollusca

EXAM 1 (class)

LAB PRACTICAL 1

Annelida

Arthropoda

Other Protostomes

Lophophorates

Echinodermata

LAB PRACTICAL 2

FINAL EXAM