

Vertebrate Zoology Lab
Syllabus
Biol 312L (1 cr) Spring 2018
Corequisite: Biol 312



Instructor Name and Contact Information: Joseph Mehus, SB 134, joseph.mehus@mayvillestate.edu, 701.788.4802

Hours of Availability: MWF 11am-Noon CST

Instruction Mode: On Campus

Time Zone: All times indicated throughout this syllabus reflect Central Standard Time (CST)

Meeting Times and Location: SB 132, 10-11:50am Th

Course Description and Learning Objectives:

Two hours laboratory per week. Activities include examination of living and fixed specimens of representative vertebrate genera, including the dissection of larger specimens as appropriate. Field activities will be required. Multimedia activities will be integrated. Co-requisite: BIOL 311. Fall, odd years.

Pre-/Co-requisites Pre-requisite: BIOL 151 or equivalent. Co-requisite: BIOL 312.

Purpose of the course: Students will be able to understand the relatedness of vertebrate organisms. This will require the understanding of the linkage between invertebrate animals and vertebrate organisms through evolution. Students will understand the taxonomic explanation of organisms in this course and be able to explain how structures and functions relate to current animal taxa.

Course Objectives: To successfully complete this lab course, you must be able to:

- Identify vertebrate animals and understand taxonomic level characteristics
- Understand what an “invertebrate chordate” animal is
- Describe the ecological niche of different taxa of vertebrate animals
- Successfully identify vertebrate, specific organ/organ-like structures/function of tissue
- Identify anthropological roles of specific vertebrate taxa
- Present information about relevant “vertebrate species”

Program Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) Addressed in This Course

The Academic Program Student Learning Outcomes document can be found in your Moodle course shell. It contains all learning outcomes pertaining to Essential Studies courses and all majors and minors. The document has an index so you can quickly find the degree you are pursuing.

As part of Mayville State University’s Essential Studies curriculum, this course seeks to prepare students for twenty-first century challenges by gaining: 1) Knowledge of human cultures; 2) Intellectual and practical skills; 3) Personal and social responsibility; 4) Integrative and applied learning.

During previous offerings of this course, students have done well. Even though students have met expectations in the course, I will be spending more time explaining diagrams that are pertinent to the education of students. I would prefer to see structure identification and function scores to be higher. In addition, oral communication skills of students were assessed for content knowledge, vocabulary, presentation skills and preparation. Students excelled in oral communication as long as they took the time to use their own words to explain terminology.

Course Improvements Based on Most Recent Assessment Findings

During previous offerings of this course, students have done well. Even though students have met expectations in the course, I will be spending more time explaining diagrams that are pertinent to the education of students. I would prefer to see structure identification and function scores to be higher. In addition, oral communication skills of students were assessed for content knowledge, vocabulary, presentation skills and preparation. Students excelled in oral communication as long as they took the time to use their own words to explain terminology.

Instructional Strategies : The following instructional strategies will be employed to help you learn the material:

- Indirect instruction
- Direct instruction
- Interactive instruction
- Hands-on learning
- Guided and independent study
- Inquiry approach
- Dissections
- Questioning skills
- Downloaded animations
- Application

Required/Recommended Materials

Exploring Zoology. 2nd Edition. Smith & Schenk

Learning Experiences

- Read all materials prior to attending class, including chapters as noted, research articles, etc.
- Assignments will be given in class.
- Student presentations will be given either live in the classroom or through Tegrity.
- In class labs/lab activities/presentations will ONLY be accepted during the class period they are administered or due. If a class is not attended by a student, make up work will not be accepted.

Instructional Technologies Utilized in this Course

- Moodle
- Tegrity

Expectations/Protocols

Labs: Labs will be completed weekly. Each lab will be worth 20 points. Labs may consist of dry/wet components, dissections, collections, identifications, microscopy, and numerous other components. Most labs will be completed using the lab textbook, others may not. Missed labs cannot be made up unless a student has a documented university excused absence.

Vignettes: Vignettes are small presentations of topics discussed in the course, usually specific animals. These will be given orally in class or presented using the Tegrity program, at the instructor's discretion. Each vignette needs to be between 5-7 minutes and include the components of the rubric provided to students.

In-Class Activities/Questions/Participation: At any time, the instructor may have in-class activities. These can only be completed when the student is in attendance. No make-ups allowed. Attendance/participation/and attention in class are important.

Instructor/Student Communication

- Students are accountable for all academic communications sent to their Mayville State University e-mail address. Students should not use outside email. Instructor is not responsible for emails not received (by instructor themselves or by students) if outside email is used.
- Faculty response time will be between 24-48 hours during the work week if a specific question is asked. If no questions are explicitly asked, a response may not be deemed necessary. Emails will not be checked on the weekends. An email sent on a Friday afternoon may not be responded to until the following Tuesday (or longer if there is a holiday). Please plan ahead accordingly.

Method of Evaluation/Grading

1) Grades for labs, quizzes, exams and in-class assignments can be anticipated within 2 weeks of the due date. Sometimes, a set of assignments will take longer to grade, especially if the assignment is heavy in text and may take an additional week.

2) In regards to late submissions, they are not accepted. Make-up labs, missed assignments/study guides/quizzes are **ONLY** permitted if there is a **UNIVERSITY EXCUSED ABSENCE AND THERE IS DOCUMENTATION**. Being busy, over sleeping, taking an extra shift, or general issues are **NOT** university excused absences. Please do not ask for extensions based upon these issues. If a university excused absence is in place with documentation, the student has 1 (one) week to complete the activity. This is one week from the day of the due date. After 1 (one) week, no points will be awarded. Determination of a university excused absence is based upon being sick and having gone to a medical professional (who can provide documentation), university sporting event in which you are actively participating in (which documentation is required), death in the immediate family (grand parent, parent, sibling, child, aunt/uncle for which you can provide documentation), military deployment (which documentation can be provided for), or legal (such as a court date that documentation can be provided for). Moving or travel is **NOT** a university excused absence. In terms of attendance and/or participation points, please see section above.

The final grade for the semester will be tentatively (which means this can change) composed of the following:

Labs (14@20points)	280 points
<u>Vignettes (5@22points)</u>	<u>110 points</u>
Total	390 points



Grades (%):	90-100	A
	80-89	B
	70-79	C
	60-69	D
	< 60	F

Lecture and lab for BIOL 312 are NOT combined. They are two unique courses. These limits are hereby preset and by continuing in the course, you recognize these limits and will abide by these limits. Please refrain from sending emails about submitting late work or “redoing” or “reopening” assignments/quizzes/study guides/exams in order to get extra points at the end of the semester. Those requests will be denied and may not warrant a response by the instructor.

Late Arrivals

The grading system for students adding this course after the first day of instruction will not be modified. The student will be graded on the activities that transpired from the beginning of the course. Students will be penalized for missed assignments and the student is still responsible for learning the course material that was covered during their initial absence.

Important Student Information

In the Moodle course, you will find a document entitled, “Important Student Information,” which includes information about:

- ✓ Academic Grievance Concerns and Instructor English Proficiency
- ✓ Starfish - Student Success System
- ✓ Students with Documented Disabilities
- ✓ Academic Honesty
- ✓ Emergency Notification
- ✓ Continuity of Academic Instruction for a Pandemic or Emergency
- ✓ Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA)
- ✓ Diversity Statement

Additional Information: This classroom is a place where you will be treated with mutual respect, and the course instructor welcome individuals of all ages, backgrounds, beliefs, ethnicities, genders, gender identities, gender expressions, national origins, religious affiliations, sexual orientations, ability – and other visible or nonvisible differences. All members of this class are expected to contribute to a respectful, welcoming and inclusive environment for every other member of the class. MSU is committed to providing a safe learning environment, free of harassment and discrimination as articulated in our university policies located on our website at <http://www.mayvillestate.edu/about-msu/consumer-information/title-ix/>. MSU’s policies require me as a faculty member to share information about incidents of gender based discrimination and harassment with MSU’s Title IX coordinator, regardless of whether the incidents are stated to me in person or shared by students as part of their coursework.