

BSC534.01

VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY

SPRING 2014

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Lani Lyman-Henley

Cell phone: 972-571-1042 **

email: dr_zot@yahoo.com (preferred) or Lani.Lyman-Henley@TAMUC.edu

Office: STC 237 (Science & Technology Center)

Office Phone: 903-886-5372

Animal Care Facility: STC 254

ACF Phone: 903-886-5249

Course Website: at eCollege (<http://online.tamuc.org>)

Home Phone: 972-722-1568*

Office Hours: MWF 11:00-12:30, R 11-12:30; email or use Virtual Office (at eCollege) anytime

*Note on phone calls: Please leave a message with your name, number, and basic reason for calling; my husband and I are both "Dr. Henley," and both get a lot of correspondence on various topics, and I don't call back mystery numbers.

** Cell phone does text messaging as well (others do not).

REQUIRED TEXT:

Vertebrate Life, 9th Ed. Pough, Janis & Heiser. 2012. **ISBN:** 978-0321773364

*Note that the 8th Edition will suffice, but if you are purchasing the book new, the most recent edition is preferred. If you have the older edition, you will be responsible for keeping up with any updated information.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Three hours. A study of advanced contemporary knowledge in vertebrate zoology. Prerequisites Graduate Standing.

COURSE FORMAT: This is a graduate level "face-to-face" course. However, we will be using a modified "flipped" approach in which you are expected to read and study assigned materials on your own, while lecture periods will be used for other, more interactive, learning activities. These will include things such as discussion of particular topics from the readings, student presentations, occasional video materials and possibly guest lectures. There is a lot of reading guidance built in at eCollege (though it is still referencing the 8th edition of the text, as I have still not received my copy of the 9th ed.).

A BIT ON ORGANIZATION: Oddly enough, we are going basically in the order the main text is organized in, so you can start at the beginning! Please DO read the Preface of the text before starting the chapters, and read each opening essay to the Parts of the text. Authors usually include these items for a reason! Feel free to read ahead, but do check back for specifics to review and discuss if you get ahead of the assignment postings so you don't skip over stuff. Please DO NOT fall behind on reading- there is a lot of material to cover and it will pile up fast if you let it slide. The textbook will be the "meat" of your course reading, but not the whole meal!

Do remember that this is a GRADUATE level course, and therefore you will be expected to show appropriate levels of effort. You will be responsible for textbook readings, plus assorted outside readings as assigned (again, visit eCollege frequently for guidance), you will be expected to take part in discussions in a mature and in-depth manner, to write in a clear and professional voice, and you should not need excessive amounts of instructor "hand-holding."

MATERIAL AND GRADING: Exams will include essay-type questions, and may include material from both lecture/discussion, reading assignments from the books, hand-outs or websites, or student presentations. You are expected to read all assigned text, preferably before the topic's treatment in lecture to facilitate discussion (refer to eCollege for specific reading assignments). Discussion will be a major emphasis in this course. You will also be expected to locate additional topics and academic articles to use in class in the course of some of your assignments (details will be provided). Exams will *emphasize* the most recent block of material, but will be comprehensive. Papers and presentations will also be detailed in separate handouts. Working together on some presentations is encouraged, studying together can be highly beneficial, but exams and turned-in assignments must be done *individually*. Cheating, plagiarism, and disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Final grades will be based on a 10% scale compared to the total points you have earned in the class, planned to fall along the following scale:

Exams (3 x 100)	300
Presentations (2 x 100)	200
Major Papers (2 x 150)	300
Minor Papers (2-4)	100
Critique/ Participation	<u>100</u>
Total course grade	1000

Make- Up Work: In the case of a missed exam, with presentation of a valid and documented excuse you *may* arrange for a make-up exam (only one such make-up will be allowed). You must see the instructor (me) ASAP to schedule such make up work, which may be in the form of an extra paper or set of essay questions. Lack of such arrangements will result in a score of **0** for that test. Written assignments *MAY* be accepted late, but will be penalized heavily on an increasing scale- see me in any such circumstances. Extreme circumstances will always be taken into consideration- **SEE ME** before you assume anything. The best course is planning ahead...Obtain a calendar or planner for the semester, and **USE IT**.

RESOURCES:

There are a variety of resources at your disposal to aid with your studies This lecture is "Web Enhanced"- it has an *eCollege* site that you will be expected to use regularly; you can enter via your MyLeo account, or go directly to <http://online.tamuc.org>.

Hopefully you no longer need the types of services provided by the **Academic Success Center** services, which include tutoring and workshops (including such topics as "Managing Test Anxiety"), but here's the link:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/CampusLife/CampusServices/AcademicSuccessCenter/default.aspx> . Those of you who are GAT's may want to point your own students this way!

And of course the Academic Calendar, which does include information regarding University holidays, deadlines to add, drop, withdraw, and other such activities. This page also includes the link to each semester's Final Exam schedule (which may also be useful for your other courses):

<http://web.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/academicCalendars/>

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS*

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>START DATE</u>	<u>TEXTBOOK READING TOPIC(S)</u>
1	Jan. 13	Ch. 1-2. Vertebrate diversity, function & evolution
2	20	Ch. 3-4. Early Vertebrates & Life in water
3	27	Ch. 5-6. The Fishes
4	Feb. 03	Ch. 7-9. The Paleozoic, Life on Land, and Tetrapod Origins
5	10	Ch. 10. The Amphibians
6	17	Ch. 11-12. Synapsids, Sauropsids, and Turtles
7	24	Ch. 13. The Lepidosaurians
8	Mar. 03	Ch. 14-15. Ectothermy & the Mesozoic
	10	SPRING BREAK –
9	17	Ch. 16. Mesozoic Diapsids
10	26	Ch. 17. Avian specializations
11	31	Ch. 18-19. Synapsids, Mammals & the Cenozoic
12	Apr. 07	Ch. 20-21. The Mammals
13	14	Ch. 22-23. Endothermy & Lifestyles of Mammals
14	21	Ch. 24-25. Primates, Humans, & our impact on others
15	28	Finish up
16	May 08	<i>Final Exam Period 8:00-10:00 am</i>

*This schedule is a general outline for your reference and is subject to change. Note that only the main textbook chapters have been listed; additional readings may be required (check website for specifics). Any changes will be announced in class (and/or at the course website); you will be responsible for keeping up with them.

OTHER NOTES (INCLUDING OFFICIAL UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS/AKA: THE FINE PRINT)

It is the responsibility of the student to inform me of any problems you may have affecting your performance in class, be it due to professionally diagnosed disability, personal or work-related problems, or anything else that comes up, so that appropriate adjustments can be made.

Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services, Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library, Room 132, Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835, Fax (903) 468-8148**

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu (or visit

<http://www.tamuc.edu/CampusLife/CampusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/default.aspx>

Regarding student conduct

“All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct.” Please be advised that students who are disruptive to class activities will be dropped from the class and may face further disciplinary action.

Plagiarism

“*Plagiarism* is a criminal activity. You must cite all sources of information. Unreferenced copying of material, whether parts of sentences, whole sentences, paragraphs or entire articles, will result in a score of zero for your essay and can result in further disciplinary action.” Note that this is true throughout the University and we do have plagiarism-detecting software in place. Of special note in an online environment- “cut and paste” from websites without appropriate citation IS plagiarism, yet putting everything in quotation marks is not an acceptable alternative. You must learn to construct your own sentences with information you find (and changing a couple of words in a sentence or reordering sentences in a paragraph are not enough). If you have any questions about what is considered plagiarism or wish advice on avoiding it, please contact your instructor.