

SPRING 2015

BSC 406 MAMMALOGY

Instructor: Dr. Dean Ransom, Jr.

Office: STM 212 Office Hours: M 10-12:00,1-2:30 PM, or by appointment.

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Textbook: **MAMMALOGY, 6th Edition, 2015**. Authors: Terry A. Vaughn, James M. Ryan, and Nicholas J. Czaplewski. ISBN:978-1-284-03209-3, www.jblearning.com.

This book is available in the TAMUC bookstore, likely with substantial markup in price. This book may be available in its softcover, for rent, or e-book for a less expensive price than the bookstore from Amazon, Barnes and Noble, or the publisher Jones and Bartlett Learning. Find the best deal you can.

Course Description: The objective of this course is to survey the phylogenetic relationships, diversity, biology, and ecology of mammals, including an understanding of the characterization of the orders and families of the extant mammals based on morphological traits and evolutionary history.

Attendance:

Lecture attendance is imperative for a successful completion of this course. If you must be absent, contact me before the scheduled lecture, assignment, or exam. An extensive amount of material will be covered and it is important that you don't fall behind. Missed exams will be allowed to be taken only with a proper authorized excuse. This is a senior level capstone class, and you should not take this class lightly.

Grading:

Attendance.....2pts/day, 25 days. Mammal of the Day exercise.....5 pts.
Exams (n=4).....100 pts. Group project written.....25pts.
Group project oral presentation.....25pts.

The **MOD** (Mammal of the Day) is an exercise each student will participate in. Each student will choose a mammal of her/his choice and prepare a short 3-4 minute presentation (handouts ok, no power-points) to the class at large at the start of each class period; to avoid

duplication of effort, each student will choose a species not already chosen. Check with the instructor regarding your choice; some species are not available (e.g., White-tailed deer, any and all cryptids).

Group projects. The class will be divided up in groups of 3, maybe 4 depending on final enrollment after the 12th class day. Each group will be assigned a topic regarding mammalian ecology and prepare a short written report and a power point presentation to be delivered to the class. All group members will be expected to participate equally, and will share the grade given for both report and presentation.

Your grade. This will be determined on the basis of total points earned divided by total points possible, times 100%, with the usual letter grade breakdown for A,B,C,D,and F.

Obligatory statements:

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).

Plagiarism is a criminal activity. You must cite all sources of information. Copying of material, whether parts of sentences, whole sentences, paragraphs or entire articles will result in a grade of zero for your assignment and can result in further disciplinary action. Note that this is true throughout the University and we do have plagiarism detecting software in place. Further information for avoiding this activity will be provided with your written assignments.

Students with disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is 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, (903)-886-5150,or (903)-886-5835, FAX (903)-468-8148, StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu.**

*The instructor reserves the right to change, alter, modify, bend, staple, fold, or mutilate this syllabus as needed; such changes will be announced in class before-hand with sufficient time for students to adjust to the changes and avoid a 'no surprises' approach.

Proposed Timeline

Week	Topic	Chapter(s)	Notes
1 (19 Jan)	Intro, Origins, Characteristics	1,2,3	
2	Classification, Monotremata, Metatheria	4,5,6	
3	Eutherian Mammals	7	
4	Order Paenungulata, Primates	9,12	
5	Orders Rodentia/Lagomorpha	13	TCTWS meeting
6	Orders Chiroptera/Carnivora	15,16	
7	Orders Perissodactyla/Artiodactyla	17,18	
8	Order Cetacea	19	
9 (16 March)	*****SPRING BREAK*****		S. Padre—don't feed the sharks.
10	Reproduction/Physiology	20,21	
11	Echolocation/Ecology	22,23	
12	Ecology/Behavior/Zoogeography	23,24,25	
13	Conservation/Disease and Zoonoses	26,28	
14	Finish up, group projects, etc.		
15 (11May)	Final exams begin		
16	Graduation, Work, Vacation, Fishing, Whatever		