



BSCI 335 Mammalogy Laboratory

Spring 2020

Learning Outcomes

The Mammalogy Laboratory will introduce students to the biology of the class Mammalia through hands-on activities, using taxidermized specimens, skeletons and skulls, prepared slides, dissections, and field instruments. This course will give students experience in morphological measurements, comparative anatomy, mammal classification and dichotomous keys, behavioral studies, population ecology, and scientific writing.

After successfully completing this course students will be able to:

- Describe and classify organisms to the order or family level based on morphological traits, such as skull and teeth features, hair and skin type, reproductive structures, and limb ratios.
- Compare and contrast important mammalian taxonomic groups using dichotomous keys, dental formulae, and identification of environmental adaptations.
- Quantify mammalian behavior, population sizes, and distribution.
- Create a research project that uses scientific methods, data collection, analysis, and writing to answer a scientific question about mammalian behavior, ecology, or evolution.

Required Resources

Mammalogy Laboratory Manual:

Martin, R.E., Pine, R.H. and DeBlase, A.F. 2011. A Manual of Mammalogy 3/e. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press.

Students will also need to download and print each week's laboratory hand-out before the start of lab. These can be accessed from the BSCI 335 ELMS page, under either Assignments or Files.

Dr. Kaci Thompson

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Class Meets

TBT
TBT
HJ Patterson 2230

Office Hours

By appointment

Teaching Assistants

Nicole Barbour
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Prerequisites

N/A

Course Communication

Important course information will be relayed via ELMS messaging inbox and announcement board. Any questions or communication from students should be either through email or ELMS messaging.

Campus Policies, Learning Assessments, and Lab Schedule

It is our shared responsibility to know and abide by the University of Maryland's policies that relate to all courses, which include topics like:

- Academic integrity
- Student and instructor conduct
- Accessibility and accommodations
- Attendance and excused absences
- Grades and appeals
- Copyright and intellectual property

Assignment of Grades: Each lab requires completion of a written assignment and a pre-lab quiz. Assignments will take the form of worksheets and discussion questions (5-20 points each). One of these assignments will be a “field trip” to the Smithsonian’s National Zoo, where students will complete an activity and submit a write-up due the following week; instructions for this will be provided in the beginning of the semester. Pre-lab quizzes will have 3 questions based on material from the previous week’s lab (5 points each). There will be one group research project that be evaluated based on a proposal worksheet (10 points), participation in group work (5 points), presentation (10 points), and formal lab report (40 points). Grading rubrics for lab reports will be distributed in class. There will also be one lab practical exam (50 points); a study guide for this exam will be distributed in the first month of classes.

All assessment scores will be posted on the course ELMS page. If students would like to review any of their grades, or have questions about how something was scored, they should email their assigned laboratory TA to schedule a time to meet in their office.

Learning Assessments	#	Points Each	Category Total	Category Weight
Assignments (AS): worksheets completed during and after lab	8	5-15	65	34%
Pre-Lab Quizzes (PQ): in-class quizzes before the start of lab	6	5	30	16%
Group Research Project (GRP): proposal, participation, presentation, and formal report	4	10-40	65	26%
Practical Exam (PEX)	1	40	40	20%
Total Points:			200	

Final letter grades are assigned based on the percentage of total assessment points earned. Being close to a cutoff is not the same as making the cut (89.99 \neq 90.00). Exceptions are not made for this, as it would be unethical to make exceptions for some and not others.

Final Grade Cutoffs									
+	97.00%	+	87.00%	+	77.00%	+	67.00%		
A	94.00%	B	84.00%	C	74.00%	D	64.00%	F	<60.0%
-	90.00%	-	80.00%	-	70.00%	-	60.00%		

Attendance: Attendance in lab is mandatory. If you are absent for a University approved reason (e.g. illness, death in the family, religious holiday, official University business), you must present documentation to the TA within one week of the missed lab to make up any missed points. Absences without appropriate documentation will be considered unexcused and result in the loss of associated points. **Students with three or more unexcused absences will fail the class.**

Assignments: **Students are expected to print out the worksheets for each week’s lab prior to coming to class** (available on the BSCI 335 ELMS course space, <http://www.elms.umd.edu>). Unless otherwise specified, students have one week to complete the assignments associated with each lab. Assignments are due at the beginning of the lab period. Late assignments will be penalized 10% of the total point value for that assignment per day of lateness.

Academic Integrity: **Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.** The University of Maryland College Park has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. Students are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for students to be aware of the consequences of

cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit <http://shc.umd.edu/SHC/StudentAcademicDishonesty.aspx> .

Get Some Help!

Students that are struggling with reaching performance goals should explore the various campus resources available (listed below, the majority of which are free) and contact their assigned laboratory TA for additional help and guidance.

For tutoring services, students should visit tutoring.umd.edu.

For writing and communication skills help, students should visit ter.ps/writing and schedule an appointment with the campus Writing Center.

For counseling services, students should visit counseling.umd.edu.

For general assistance, students should visit go.umd.edu/assistance.

For basic needs security (including inability to purchase groceries or food or the lack of a safe place to live), students should visit go.umd.edu/basic-needs.

Names/Pronouns and Self Identifications

The University of Maryland recognizes the importance of a diverse student body and is committed to fostering inclusive and equitable classroom environments. Students should tell their assigned TA how they want to be referred to both in terms of their name and pronouns (he/him, she/her, they/them, etc.). The pronouns someone indicates are not necessarily indicative of their gender identity. Students should visit trans.umd.edu to learn more.

Self-identification, in terms of gender, race, class, sexuality, religion, and disability (among all aspects of personal identity), is the student's choice whether to disclose and should be self-identified, not presumed or imposed. Students are asked to respect the self-identification of their peers if disclosed to them and to report any concerns about violations of this respect (whether it be to them personally or to their peers) to either their assigned TA or the lab director.

Course Schedule

AS = Assignment from the previous week submitted to your TA before the start of lab

GRP = Group Research Project piece due (proposal, participation evaluation, presentation, or formal report)

PQ = In-lab quiz during the beginning of lab on the previous week's material

PEX = Practical lab exam

DATE	DURING OUR CLASS MEETING	DUE BEFORE CLASS
Jan 28/29	No Lab	-
Feb 4/5	Lab 1- Skull Features Lab 2- Comparative Anatomy	-
Feb 11/12	Lab 3- Integument, Horns, and Antlers	AS-01 PQ-01
Feb 18/19	No Labs This Week	-
Feb 25/26	Lab 4- Limbs and Locomotion	AS-02 PQ-02
Mar 4/5	Lab 5- Reproduction	AS-03 PQ-03
Mar 11/12	LAB PRACTICAL EXAM	AS-04 PEX
Mar 18/19	Spring Break (No Lab)	-
Mar 25/26	Lab 6- Observing Behavior	GRP (Proposal)
Apr 1/2	Lab 7- Populations	AS-05 PQ-04
Apr 8/9	Lab 8- Spatial Distributions	AS-06 PQ-05
Apr 15/16	Lab 9- Scientific Writing	AS-07 PQ-06
Apr 22/23	<i>Optional Statistics Workshop</i>	AS-08
Apr 29/30	Final Project Presentations	GRP (Presentation)
May 3/4	No Labs This Week (FINAL REPORT DUE)	GRP (Final Report Due, Participation Evaluation)

Note: This is a tentative schedule, and subject to change as necessary – monitor the course ELMS page for current deadlines. In the unlikely event of a prolonged university closing, or an extended absence from the university, adjustments to the course schedule, deadlines, and assignments will be made based on the duration of the closing and the specific dates missed.