

BIOLOGY 307 – Chordate Zoology (2015-16)

Instructor: Patrick Gregory, Cunn. 224, 721-7103, viper@uvic.ca (Office Hours: Fridays, 11:00 AM –12:30 PM, or by appointment)

Senior Laboratory Instructor: Rossi Marx, zoology@uvic.ca

Calendar Description: Chordates: evolutionary history and adaptations. Major taxonomic groups, with emphasis on derived and defining characteristics; locomotion, feeding, sensory systems and reproduction. Laboratory exercises include observations of prepared specimens, dissections, written assignments and oral presentations.

Aims:

1. to summarize diversity, evolutionary history, and integrative biology of chordates, especially vertebrates;
2. to use vertebrates to illustrate important general concepts (e.g. macro-evolution).

Major Lecture/Seminar/Reading Topics:

- Diversity of vertebrates; systematics and phylogeny
- Inferences from phylogenies
- Overview of organ systems and morphological patterns among vertebrates
- Patterns and processes in the macro-evolution of vertebrates, especially major transitions

Marks Breakdown:

Mid-term Exam	20	Tuesday, 16 February 2016
Final Exam	40	TBA (7 – 22 April 2016)
Labs	40	See separate instructions

Laboratory Classes: The requirements for the laboratory component of the course are covered in separate documentation. However, please note that the laboratory classes include demonstration and observation of live animals (but no experimentation). Students who do not want to participate in the live animal demonstration will be given the option of not taking part and relying solely on other materials (e.g. visual aids instead).

Examinations: The midterm and final examinations will consist of multiple-choice questions. The midterm examination will be based on all material presented or discussed in the course to that point, as well as assigned readings (see below). Some questions may involve evaluation of data/figures or tables that you may not have seen before. The examination time as set is non-negotiable, except with a medical note. The final examination will be similar in structure and cumulative over the entire course, based 1/3 on material up to the midterm and 2/3 on material since the midterm, including assigned readings (see below).

Textbook: There is no required textbook for this course, but I will provide a list of articles that collectively comprise a "virtual" textbook.

Other Reading and Class Participation: I will assign particular primary papers for you to read for each half of the course (all available via the UVic Library website). These will be *required readings* on which some exam questions will be based. *Only papers from the first half of the course will be examinable on the midterm and only those from the second half will be examinable on the final exam. We will not necessarily discuss these papers in class, so it is up to you to read them on your own.* In order to foster discussion of important issues, in-class homework assignments also may be made from time to time. No marks will be assigned for class participation, but if there is no discussion, I will assume that you know the material and discuss it no further, but will still consider it material suitable for questions on the final examination.

Final Grades:

Final grades are submitted as % marks.

As per Department of Biology policy, no supplemental examinations will be offered in this course.

Course Prerequisites and Corequisites: Prerequisites – BIOL 190A, 190B (or equivalent). Those not meeting these requirements or not having prior permission to enroll will be dropped from the course, **unless I receive a written request for special consideration, with reasons, by Monday, 11 Jan. 2016.**

General: Although there is a course website (CourseSpaces) on which I will post handouts with the major figures used in lectures, and other information, I will not post or hand out lecture notes; *students are expected to attend lectures and take their own notes.*

Note that these posted handouts are for your personal use only (see note below that will be appended to all handouts) and must not be distributed further by you for any reason whatsoever; *any such further distribution will result in discontinuation of posted material and you will have to rely entirely on your own notes taken in lecture.* For more on copyright issues, visit <https://www.uvic.ca/copyright/>.

Note Accompanying Handouts: "This copy was made pursuant to the [Fair Dealing Guidelines](#) of the University, library database licenses or other university policies. The copy may only be used for the purpose of research, private study, criticism, review, news reporting, education, satire or parody. If the copy is used for the purpose of review, criticism or news reporting, the source and the name of the author must be mentioned. The use of this copy for any other purpose may require the permission of the copyright owner."

Course Feedback: I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term you will have the opportunity to complete a confidential course experience survey (CES) regarding your learning experience. The survey provides feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, and also helps the department improve the overall program for students in the future. When it is time for you to complete the survey, you will receive an email inviting you to do so. If you do not receive an email invitation, you can go directly to <http://ces.uvic.ca>. You will need to use your UVic NetLink ID to access the survey, which can be done on your laptop, tablet or mobile device. I will remind you about this later in the term, but please think about this in the meantime, especially the following three general questions:

1. What strengths did your **instructor** demonstrate that helped you learn in this course.

2. Please provide specific suggestions as to how the **instructor** could have helped you learn more effectively.
3. Please provide specific suggestions as to how this **course** could be improved.

Some Important Dates:

Last day for 100% reduction of second-term fees for standard courses. 50% of tuition fees will be assessed for courses dropped after this date – 17 January

Last day for adding courses that begin in the second term – 20 January

Last day for paying second-term fees without penalty – 31 January

Last day for 50% reduction of tuition fees for standard courses. 100% of tuition fees will be assessed for courses dropped after this date – 7 February

Last day for withdrawing from full-year and second-term courses without penalty of failure – 29 February

See <http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2015-09/GI/2AYeID.html> for full list of important dates.

Missed Assignments and Examinations: Three categories of excuses are accepted by the University of Victoria for missed assignments or examinations – illness, emotional trauma, UVic – sponsored sporting activities. Request for academic concession for any of these reasons must be supported by appropriate documentation (e.g. from a medical doctor, UVic counselling services, UVic coaching staff). *Note that prior arrangement of travel plans that conflict with scheduled examinations is not a valid excuse for missing a midterm or final examination*; examinations will not be rescheduled in such cases. Penalties for late assignments in the laboratory section will be discussed separately.

Academic Integrity: Please read UVic's policy on academic integrity, including cheating and plagiarism (<http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2015-09/GRAD/FARe/PoAcI.html>). Cheating and plagiarism are serious matters; to read more on how to avoid them, please visit <http://www.uvic.ca/library/research/citation/plagiarism/index.php>. Additional useful information, including use of "common knowledge" can be found at <https://integrity.mit.edu/handbook/citing-your-sources/what-common-knowledge> and <http://isites.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k70847&pageid=icb.page342055>.