

## BIOL 307 Chordate Zoology Syllabus – Spring 2023

### **General Course Information**

Welcome to Chordate Zoology! This course will provide an introduction to the diversity, anatomy, ecology, and behaviour of chordate animals. The Biology 307 Laboratories will provide you with the opportunity to gain an appreciation for the relationship between form and function of chordates and will attempt to do so by taking a comparative approach. The lectures will complement this by providing ecological and evolutionary context of chordate adaptations.

### **Lecture Contact Location & Hours**

A01 - Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday, 10:30am - 11:20am, Cornett Building A120, or Via Zoom link and meeting ID/password the course website.

### **Laboratory Contact Location & Hours**

Petch Building 110,

B01 - Monday 2:30pm-5:20pm, or B02 - Monday 5:30pm-8:20pm, or B04 - Tuesday 2:30pm-5:20pm, or B05 - Tuesday 5:30pm-8:20pm, or via Zoom link and meeting ID/password provided on the course website.

***\*enrollment in a laboratory section is mandatory***

### **Prerequisites**

BIOL 184, BIOL 186, or permission from the Course Coordinator (David Punzalan).

### **About the Instructors**

This course is co-taught by Dr. David Punzalan (Lectures, and Course Coordination) and Dr. Roswitha Marx (Laboratory Coordination). Dave is an evolutionary ecologist, originally hailing from Toronto, Ontario. Although broadly trained in zoology, he admits to having spent most of his 'good years' chasing terrestrial and freshwater non-chordates (e.g. insects, spiders, and crustaceans). As a relatively new (2019) transplant to Victoria, he spends most weekends learning about biodiversity in the Pacific Northwest, often staring into tidepools or beachcombing. Rossi is a neurobiologist by training who is in awe of nature and fascinated by how organisms and their systems function. She very much appreciates that we will be able to have many of the specimens from the department's collection on display in the BIOL 307 labs and hopes that you will share her excitement.

### **Contacting the Instructors**

Dave ([davidpunzalan@uvic.ca](mailto:davidpunzalan@uvic.ca)) and Rossi ([zoology@uvic.ca](mailto:zoology@uvic.ca)) are available to meet by appointment.

***\*please include "BIOL 307" in the subject line of e-mails, and expect a response within 48h.***

### **Course Website and Materials**

- 1) Course website on Brightspace (BRS):  
Please check this page regularly for important information and announcements.

- 2) Lectures will be delivered in person or via Zoom; electronic (.pdf) versions of the lecture slides and video recordings of (most) sessions will be posted on BRS after class.
- 3) Lab materials: there is no lab manual for this course. Lab write-ups will be posted on BRS the week before each lab. Also check BRS for information regarding assignments.
- 4) Optional textbook: **Kardong, K. V. 2019. Vertebrates: Comparative Anatomy, Function, Evolution.** 8<sup>th</sup> Edition. McGraw-Hill Education, New York.  
(A list of required readings will be posted on the course website)

### **Intended Learning Outcomes**

This course is designed to provide information that is of fundamental scientific interest and importance but also to impart skills that are valuable in a professional scientific career (in biology and elsewhere). After completion of this course, you will be able to successfully identify and classify the major groups of living (extant) chordate animals based on anatomical features. You will recognize differences among these groups in skeletal, respiratory, and nervous systems and understand their evolutionary origins and ecological context (*i.e.* phylogeny and functional morphology). You will possess the foundational skills for generating and testing hypotheses using comparative data, as well as skills in cooperative learning and effective communication of scientific information.

### **Assessment**

You will have the opportunity to demonstrate your progress and proficiency through various forms of evaluation, including:

Lab Content (breakdown provided separately)	50%
Lecture Content	
Prep Survey & Career Exercises	3%
Packback Assignments (approximately weekly)	10%
Discussion(s)	2%
Morphometrics Assignments	5%
Lecture Test 1 - Stage I (12%) + Stage II (3%)	15%
Lecture Test 2 (during Final Exam period)	15%

To pass the course, students must:

- 1) Write **Lecture** Test 2
- 2) Complete all **Lab** Assignments
- 3) Score a grade of 25 points, or greater, out of a possible 50 in the **Laboratory** component
- 4) Score a grade of 50 points, or greater, combined across **Lecture** and **Laboratory** components

*If either 1 or 2 are not completed, the student will automatically fail the course and receive an "N" ('Incomplete') on their transcript. If a student successfully completes 1 and 2 but is not successful in either 2 or 3, they will receive an "F" on their transcript.*

## Appendix: Policies

### **Territory Acknowledgment**

The instructors of BIOL307 are grateful to live and work in the unceded territories of the Lekwungen speaking First Nations, and we support the University of Victoria's official territory acknowledgment:

*"We acknowledge and respect the lək'wəŋən peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day."*

### **Academic Integrity**

All staff and students are responsible for adhering to a Code of Conduct, including Academic Integrity. Please read the following—you are expected to by the terms outlined in the following:

<https://www.uvic.ca/services/advising/assets/docs/tri-fac-student-code-of-conduct.pdf>

[https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/index.php#/policy/Sk\\_OxsM\\_V](https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/index.php#/policy/Sk_OxsM_V)

### **Missed examinations and assignments**

The University of Victoria accepts three types of valid excuses for missed tests or assignments, provided on the date the exam occurred or the assignment was due:

- illness
- emotional trauma
- UVic-sponsored sporting activities

You are expected to contact your instructors (and/or Teaching Assistant if applicable), as soon as possible. If Lecture Test 2 is missed (with valid reason), arrangements must be made to: 1) write the exam before the end of the exam period, or 2) request an Academic Concession in order to write the exam at a later date.

### **Code of Conduct, and Commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion**

All participants of BIOL307 are expected to treat each other with mutual respect. The course team welcomes students of all backgrounds, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, etc.

### **Accessibility and special needs**

Students with special needs will be welcomed and accommodated, provided those needs are registered through the Centre for Accessible Learning

(<https://uvic.ca/services/cal>; phone: 250-472-4947)

### **Course Grade and Academic Transcript**

Grades for all UVic courses are submitted as percentiles. A student's academic transcript will include the percentile grade and a letter grade plus the class average and the number of students registered in the course at the time of the final exam.

Percentiles will be rounded to the nearest whole number; a grade of xx.5 will be rounded up. Percentile grades will be converted to letter grades on the student's academic transcript according to the table given below.

A+	90 – 100%	B+	77 – 79%	C+	65 – 69%
A	85 – 89%	B	73 – 76%	C	60 – 64%
A-	80 – 84%	B-	70 – 72%	D	50 – 59%

**F (Fail) is a grade less than 50%**  
**No supplemental exams will be offered for this course**