

# Vertebrate Ecology1410—MAMMALOGY

## Syllabus

### COURSE STRUCTURE

Instructor: Dr. Morty Ortega  
mortyortega@hotmail.com

## I. DESCRIPTION OF COURSE

Lecture and Laboratory, 3 semester credits. Class will meet on Monday through Friday (Session 3). Prerequisites: Two semesters of biological science, and sophomore standing or permission of the instructor. The **lecture** portion of this course focuses on evolution, classification, distribution, behavior, physiology and ecology of mammals. **Laboratory** will examine morphological characteristics of mammals as applied to identification of mammals. Regional mammals will have special consideration, but mammals from North America and the rest of the world will also be examined. Evolutionary, ecological and ethological relationships of mammals are examined. Each student must complete a research project and resulting written report. Students must attend all classes to receive a grade.

## II. SCHEDULE AND REQUIREMENTS

### Lecture and Laboratory

Lecture and laboratory sessions will be conducted on Monday through Friday from 9:00-12:00 hrs and from 14:00-17:00 hrs. Since the laboratory is held in the same room we will integrate parts of lecture and laboratory as needed. A total of two (2) lecture/lab examinations will be administered during the summer session. Exams will consist of questions originated from the lectures or field exercises, and questions from the "Discussion - Questions" at the end of each chapter of the textbook. The tentative exam schedule is as follows:

Exams (125 points each)	250 points	July 3 and July 13
Project	150 points	July 12
Total	<b>400 points</b>	

### Laboratory

These sessions will entail field work (checking live traps in the morning and late afternoon) and working in the field and with specimens in the laboratory during all other times. The laboratory exams will entail identification of mammals.

### III. FIELD TRIPS

There will be 2 mandatory and one optional field trips during the summer session.

**Trip #1** A daylong trip to Pittsburgh zoo. Depart PLE 8:00 and return 17:00.

**Trip #2** A daylong trip to Pittsburgh to tour the Section of Mammals of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. Ms. Suzanne McLaren, Collection Manager, will present a tour of the collection. Depart PLE @ 8a.m., return 5 p.m.

**Trip #2** A daylong trip to Cabela's in Wheeling, West Virginia. This store contains a large collection of different mammals from the USA and other countries. It also contains a special room on deer. Depart PLE @ 8a.m., return 7 p.m.

### IV. RESEARCH PROJECT

All students must complete a project for the class. This project will represent a field project performed and written by a team of 3-4 students. The project will be presented to the class in the form of an oral presentation (75 points possible) and submitted as a written report (75 points possible). Teams consisting of 3-4 students must work together on all aspects of the project (e.g. development of the experimental design, data collection and organization, literature searching and preparation of the report). Students are to share in the actual writing of the report divided as follows:

1. Introduction
2. Methods
3. Results
4. Discussion
5. Literature Cited

Only one report will be considered for a grade and each student must identify the section of the report that he or she prepared. In addition, each student will submit to the instructor an anonymous grade indicative of each coauthors contribution and performance in the project.

Format for the written report will strictly adhere to the Guidelines for Manuscripts for the **Journal of Mammalogy**. See a recent copy of this Journal in the library. Oral presentations and written reports are due on Thursday, July 12, 2006.

## V. GRADING SCALE

From the **TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE** = **400**

<u>Letter grade</u>	<u>Range (%)</u>	<u>Number score</u>
A	90-100	360-400
B	80-89	320-356
C	70-79	280-316
D	60-69	240-276

## VI. TEXTS (required texts are in bold typeface)

- Burt, W.H. 1972. Mammals of the Great Lakes Region. University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor. 246pp.
- Day, R.A. 1988. How to write and publish a scientific paper. 3rd Edition. Oryx Press, Phoenix, AZ, 211 pp--on reserve in the PLE library
- DeBlase, A.F., and R.E. Martin. 1981. A manual of Mammalogy. 2nd ed., Wm. C. Brown Company Publ., 436pp--on Reserve in PLE the library
- Feldhamer, G.A., L.C. Drickamer, S.H. Vessey, and J.F. Merritt. 2004. Mammalogy: Adaptation, Diversity, Ecology. Second Edition. The McGraw-Hill Companies, Dubuque, IA, 563 pp. ISBN 0-697-16733-X**
- Macdonald, D. (ed.) 1984. The Encyclopedia of mammals. Facts on File, NY 895 pp. on Reserve in the PLE library
- Merritt, J.F. 1987. Guide to the mammals of Pennsylvania. University of Pittsburgh Press. 408pp**
- Merritt, J.F. 1991. Laboratory manual for mammalogy. Spec. Publ. CMNH. 87pp—on Reserve in the PLE library
- Roest, A.I. 1991. A key-guide to mammal skulls and lower jaws. Mad River Press, Inc, Eureka, CA, 39 pp (provided by the instructor)
- Tryon, C.A., Jr. 1955. The vertebrates of Pennsylvania and adjacent areas. University of Pittsburgh, Pymatuning Laboratory of Ecology, 106pp.

**Dr. Morty Ortega**  
**Department of Natural Resources Management and Engineering**  
**1376 Storrs Road – Unit 4087**  
**University of Connecticut**  
**Storrs, CT 06269**

**Phone: 860-208-5614**  
**Email: [mortyortega@hotmail.com](mailto:mortyortega@hotmail.com)**  
**Web site: [www.patagonia.uconn.edu/new](http://www.patagonia.uconn.edu/new)**