

General Zoology
Class Syllabus and Course Explanation



COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Zoology or Animal Biology is a discipline of biology dealing with animals (humans included). The animals are classified in about 35 phyla, which we would try to cover briefly.

CREDIT HOURS: 4

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Introduction to the concept of evolution, and tree thinking

Recognize animal diversity and phylogenetic history by means of acquired and shared traits.

Basic understanding of history of animals on earth, including some critical fossil groups.

PROFESSOR:

Juan Diego Daza Ph. D.

Lee Drain Building 214

Phone: 936-294-4250

Email: daza@shsu.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday 11:00 AM—2:30 PM or by appointment.

ROOM & TIME: Lecture: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00 AM—9:50 AM, LDB 115.

TEXTBOOK:

Hickman Jr. CP, Roberts LS, Keen SL, Eisenhour DJ, Larson A, l'Anson H. 2014. Integrated principles of zoology. McGraw Hill, New York. 823 pp. (Recommended not mandatory).

ONLINE RESOURCES:

We will be using Tophat (<https://tophat.com>). You should have received an invitation on your University email. Also we will be using dropbox to exchange files, also you should receive an invitation on your mailbox.

GRADE:

1) Lecture Exams (500 points): There will be six regular exams during the semester. Each exam is worth 85 points. All regular exams will consist of multiple choice, true false, and matching questions and will be given during the designated lecture time-slot (see accompanying schedule).

2) Lab Grade (300 points). This part of the course is based on observation of preserved animals. There is a separated syllabus for the lab.

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3) Photo safari (100 points). As part of the class, students will load pictures of animals into a shared folder on dropbox. Animals must be identified to the lowest taxonomic rank possible. All the pictures that you submit have to be named in the following format:

your SHSU user name **Locality**

daza_Alligator_missipensis_HuntsvilleTX.jpg

Species ID

4) Presentation (100 points). Each student will present a 5 minutes talk about a topic relevant to the subject of the day.

Remarks: There will be absolutely no make-up examinations during the semester. If you know in advance that you will miss an exam because of a religious event or because you are conducting official Sam Houston State University business, you may make arrangements to pre-take the exam provided that you supply written verification for the reason you will miss the exam. This early exam will be distinct from the standard exam.

GRADE EXPLAINED:

There will be only one grade for human anatomy. This grade reflects both the lecture and lab components. Lab will count for 30% of your overall course grade and lecture will make up 70%.

Course grades will be assigned on a 1000-point scale. See the breakdown below for the number of points required for each letter grade. Should an error be made in scoring exams, I must be informed within a week of the time exam grades are posted. Corrections will not be considered after that period.

	Points
Lecture Exams	50%
Lab Grade*	30%
Photo safari	10%
Presentation	10%
Total	100%

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POINTS REQUIRED:

Grade

A	90%-100%
B	80%-89.9%
C	70%-79.9%
D	60%-69.9%
F	59.9% and below

Remarks: There will be no extra credit, no review sessions, no review sheets. I will, however, post outlines/lectures of the material presented on blackboard. I strongly encourage you to exchange notes with classmates, study together, and form study groups, etc.

USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

I welcome the use of personal computers for class purposes (i.e. note taking, online academic resources, tophat); however we expect that students who bring electronic devices to class will use them for academic purposes only. The use of electronic devices for non-academic activities during classroom activities, such as surfing the Internet, updating social networking pages, or engaging in any other extracurricular activities, is disruptive to fellow students and disrespectful to faculty, and therefore constitute unprofessional behavior. The use of mobile phones is not allowed and they have to be in silent mode prior to the beginning of the class. If someone receives a call during a lecture, I might be willing to leave.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course. This includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. Students who are found to be dishonest will receive academic sanctions, such as an "F" grade on the exam. They will also be reported to the Head of the Department of Biological Sciences for possible further disciplinary action.

VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM:

Unannounced visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is my discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed in the classroom.



AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program of activity. Students with disabilities may request assistance with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities by contacting the Director of Counseling Center in the Lee Drain Annex or by calling (936) 264-1720. Students who have disabilities that may prevent them from fully demonstrating their abilities should contact the instructor as soon as possible to discuss accommodations necessary to ensure the students educational opportunity. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS:

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

CLASS ATTENDANCE

1. Regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student at Sam Houston State University.
2. Each faculty member will keep a record of student attendance.
3. Each faculty member will announce the policies for accepting late work or providing makeup examinations. Students are expected to show appropriate cause for missing or delaying major assignments or examinations.
4. A student shall not be penalized for three or fewer hours of absences when examinations or other assigned class work has not been missed; however, at the discretion of the instructor, a student may be penalized for more than three hours of absences.

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5. Each instructor is obligated to clarify in writing to each student enrolled in class at the beginning of the semester or summer session the instructor's classroom policy regarding absences.
6. Class absences will be recorded and counted only from the actual day of enrollment for the individual student in that specific class.

See more information on: <http://www.shsu.edu/catalog/scholasticrequirements.h>

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Schedule	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
Week 1 Jan 14/20		Snowday	Introduction, what's an animal?
Week 2 Jan 21/27	Evolution theory (Ch. 6)/ Assembling and interpreting the tree of life	Assembling and interpreting the tree of life	Origin of life (Ch. 1)
Week 3 Jan 28/ Feb 3	Cells and cell division (Ch. 3)	Exam 1	Genes (Ch. 5)
Week 4 Feb 4/ Feb 10	Reproduction (Ch. 7)	Animal development (Ch. 8)	animal body plans (Ch. 9)
Week 5 Feb 11/Feb 17	Taxonomy and phylogeny of animals (Ch. 10)	Exam 2	Unicellular eukaryotes (Ch. 11)
Week 6 Feb 18/Feb 24	Sponges and placozoans (Ch. 12)	Radiate animals (Ch. 13)/	Acoelomorpha, Platyzoa and Mesozoa (Ch. 14)
Week 7 Feb 25/ Mar 3	Polyzoa and Kryptrochozoa (Ch. 15)	Exam 3	Molluscs (Ch. 16)
Week 8 Mar 4/ Mar 10	Smaller Ecdysozoans (Ch. 18)/	Trilobites, Chelicerates, and Myriapods (Ch. 19)	Crustaceans (Ch. 20)
Week 9 Spring break	//////////	//////////	//////////
Week 10 Mar 18/Mar 24	Hexapods (Ch. 21)	Exam 4	Chaetognaths, Echinoderms, and Hemichordata (Ch. 22)
Week 11 Mar 25/Mar 31	Chordates (Ch. 23)	Fishes (Ch. 24)	Tetrapoda.
Week 12 Apr 1/Sat 7	Lissamphibia (Ch. 25)	Exam 5	Extinct, Reptiles (Ch. 26)
Week 13 Apr 8/Apr 14	Amniota, Reptiles (Ch. 26)	Amniota, Reptiles (Ch. 26)	Origin of birds
Week 14 Apr 15/Apr 21	Modern Birds (Ch. 27)	Mammals (Ch. 28)	Mammals (Ch. 28)
Week 15 Apr 22/ Apr 28	Exam 6	Animal distributions (Ch. 37)	Animal ecology (Ch. 38)
Week 16 Apr 29/ May 5	Field trip (Museum, Zoo)?	Documentary	Documentary
Week 17 Finals			

