**BIOL 3454 – 001**

**General Zoology**

Class meeting place and time: LS 119, MWF 11:00 – 11:50 am

Instructor: Dr. Corey E. Roelke

email: croelke@uta.edu

Office: LS 464

Office hours: MWF: 10:00 – 10:50 am

**Syllabus:** If you ask me a question that is easily answered by examining this syllabus I reserve the right to not subject your most recent exam to any curve that is applied to the rest of the class. **Consider this your warning.**

Instructor contact: Email is the best way to reach me. I will usually respond within twenty four hours on weekdays. We can handle most issues by email. If you need to meet with me at another time besides my regularly scheduled office hours, please email me and set up an appointment. I am usually on campus each weekday, but may be in another lab or building teaching or doing research.

Email policy: I will use your official UTA email to communicate with you about deadlines and updates. Please check this email regularly. I will give you at least five days of advance notice of important deadlines by email. Not seeing an email is not an excuse for not attending class on a day we have an exam.

Textbook: **Integrated principles of Zoology.** 2017.Seventeenth Edition. Hickman, Keen, Eisenhour, Larson, l’Anson. ISBN: 978-1-25-966209-6

Student learning objectives

1) Students will learn about the taxonomic and functional diversity of animals.

2) Students will learn how various animal taxa solve challenges common to all organisms through life history strategy, morphology, and behavior.

3) Students will gain an appreciation for biology as a historical science, practiced by scientists in the context of the societies in which they lived and currently live within.

Schedule:

Chapter 1: Biological principles and the science of zoology

Chapter 6: Evolution

Chapter 10: Taxonomy and phylogeny of animals

Film study: *Master and commander: the far side of the world*

**Exam #1**

Chapter 9: Animal architecture

Chapter 12: Sponges and Placozoans

Chapter 13: Radiate animals: Cnidarians and Ctenophorans

Chapter 14: Flatworms, mesozoans, and ribbon worms

**Exam #2**

Chapter 8: Principles of development

Chapter 15: Gnathiferans and smaller lophotrocozoans

Chapter 16: Molluscs

**Exam #3**

Chapter 17: Annelids and allied taxa

Chapter 18 Ecdysozoans

Chapter 19: Trilobites, chelicerates, and myriapods

**Exam #4**

Chapter 20: Crustaceans

Chapter 21: Hexapods

Chapter 22: Chaetognaths, echinoderms, and hemichordates

**Exam #5**

Chapter 23: Chordates part 1 (Cephalochordata, Urochordata)

Lecture #16 (not book chapter): Chordates part 2 (non-amniotic vertebrates)

Lecture #17 (not book chapter): Chordates part 3 (amniotic vertebrates)

**NONCOMPREHENSIVE final exam (Exam #6): date and time to be announced**

Exams: Exams will be fifty multiple choice questions. Please bring a blue scantron (NCS form 4521) in good shape (not crumpled) and a pencil to each exam. You will have fifty minutes to complete each exam, including the final. Please mark you scantrons carefully. I will not change a grade because of an answer marked incorrectly from an erasure.

Make-up exam policy: If you miss a class when an exam is scheduled, you may take a make-up exam. **ALL make-up exams will be in essay format**; the questions and grading will be at my discretion.

Grading: Your lab grade is 40% of your total grade in the course. The six lecture exams are all weighted equally; therefore each exam is worth 10% of your total course grade. This means the four components of lab (two practical exams, handouts, and quizzes) are each worth 10% of your final course grade.

The grading scale will be as follows:

> 90 = A

80 – 90 = B

70 – 80 = C

60 – 70 = D

< 60 = F

Individual exam grades and final percentages **MAY** be curved. This is not a guarantee for the entire course or any individual exam. You will receive a grade based on your exam scores. Please do not beg for points. There is a cutoff point when it comes to letter grades. If you are below the cutoff for a specific letter grade, no amount of grade grubbing will get you a higher grade.

I will post your exam grades and final grades on Blackboard. If there is a problem with your grade, contact me BEFORE you see your final grade on MyMav. It is much easier and faster to change a grade before it is formally entered.

Conflict Resolution: If you are experiencing an issue in lab or class, you should first arrange a meeting with your instructor to discuss the issue. If you feel the issue requires further attention, you may then consult the Associate Chair of the Department of Biology, Dr. Laura Mydlarz. To do this you should first file a grievance at <https://www.uta.edu/php-lib/machform/view.php?id=3403>. You must file the online form and have all supporting documentation in order to have your issue heard. Please note, none of the listed personnel will discuss the issue with you until you have first consulted all of those preceding him/her.

Lab: You may not switch labs without a documented excuse. This could include a signed doctor’s note or a letter from the University detailing the circumstances of your upcoming absence. If you miss a lab, you miss the quiz and handout grades associated with it. Punctuality is largely a matter of preparation. Be on time to lab.

Hints and tips for success: **READ THESE POINTS**

This is likely to be the most information intensive course you will take in college. Much of this course is simply learning material and being able to recall it when asked. For most students, this requires sustained effort at memorizing this information.

Many times predictors for student success are correlational in nature and do not imply causality, but several generalities emerge. Students who do well typically attend class, listen to the instructor, take notes, read the textbook, and learn the material as it is presented and not in large chunks right before the exams. Attendance is not required. I have had many students achieve A’s and never come to class, but most people who make A’s do attend class and do read the book.

I am usually easygoing and understanding of personal situations, but please do not test me with regards to cheating on exams. Cheaters, if caught, will be dealt with swiftly and harshly though the appropriate university channels.

Don’t share answers, copy answers, or attempt to cheat in lab, the graduate teaching assistants have an excellent chance of catching you and it will not be pleasant. You will be punished and it will affect your final grade in the course.

Do well in lab every chance you get, every week. Lab is about sustained effort every single week. I’ve seen many students with good lecture grades get terrible course grades because of a lackluster effort in lab. I’ve also seen many mediocre or bad lecture grades turn into good or excellent course grades from a good lab grade.