

# Vertebrate Biology

EEB 2214

Fall 2014

Meetings: Tuesday, Thursday 12:30-1:45 in BPB130  
Textbook: Pough, F. H., C. M. Janice & J. B. Heiser. 2012. *Vertebrate Life*, 9<sup>th</sup> edition. Pearson/Benjamin Cummings (8<sup>th</sup> edition also acceptable.)  
Website: [http://hydrodictyon.eeb.uconn.edu/eebedia/index.php/Biology\\_of\\_the\\_Vertebrates](http://hydrodictyon.eeb.uconn.edu/eebedia/index.php/Biology_of_the_Vertebrates)

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Office hours: Thursdays 2–3 pm and by appointment

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Office hours: Tuesdays 2–3 pm and by appointment

Grading:	Exam 1 (Thursday, Sept. 25)	100 points
	Exam 2 (Thursday, Oct. 30)	100 points
	Final Exam (Friday, Dec. 12, TENTATIVE)	125 points
	Research Reviews (Tuesdays)	30 points
	Weekly Quizzes	50 points
	Collections Tour	5 points

There will be two one-hour, non-cumulative, exams scheduled during the lecture hour. The final exam will be cumulative, with an emphasis on material from the final third of the course. 12 research reviews (3 points each) and quizzes (5 points each) will be offered over the course of the semester. 10 of each will count towards the final course grade (the best 5 of 6 from each half of the semester, as determined by the combined quiz + research review grade.)

**Missed exams:** Any student who does not attend an exam and fails to receive permission in advance will receive a 0 for the exam. Approval of any request to miss an exam requires, but is not guaranteed by, verifiable written documentation of the reason. A student who receives approval to miss an exam will have his or her grade for the missed exam prorated based on his or her performance on the remainder of the exams. We will not give make-up exams. Every student must take the final. Permission to reschedule the final can only be obtained by following procedures determined by the Dean of Students Office ([dos.uconn.edu](http://dos.uconn.edu)).

**Other absences:** No make-ups will be given for research responses or quizzes. The lowest research review/quiz grade from each half of the semester will be dropped.

**Academic integrity:** Plagiarism and cheating are violations of the student conduct code, and may be punished by failure in the course or, in severe cases, dismissal from the University. For more information, see Section IV of the Student Conduct Code available at the following web site: <http://community.uconn.edu/the-student-code-part-iv/>.

**Disabilities:** If you have a disability for which you may be requesting an accommodation, you should contact a course instructor and the Center for Students with Disabilities (Wilbur Cross Building, Room 201, [www.csd.uconn.edu](http://www.csd.uconn.edu)) within the first two weeks of the semester.

**Classroom conduct:** We expect all students to behave in a way that is respectful of others. The classroom conduct form, which describes our expectations in more detail, must be signed and returned to the teaching assistant by the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of class.

## Tentative Lecture Schedule

This course will cover the diversity of vertebrates and the evolution of form and function within this group. Check the course website for the most up-to-date schedule and for review questions.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
<b>Part 1: Dr. Elizabeth Jockusch</b>		
Aug. 26	Vertebrate diversity	--
Aug. 28	Chordates and vertebrate origins	Ch. 1, 2
Sept. 2	Living jawless vertebrates	Ch. 3
Sept. 4	Early vertebrate fossils	Ch. 3
Sept. 9	Chondrichthyans	Ch. 5
Sept. 11	Osteichthyan origin and diversification	Ch. 6
Sept. 16	Actinopterygians	Ch. 6
Sept. 18	Sarcopterygii & evolution of tetrapods	pp. 125-128 & 196-211 (8 <sup>th</sup> ed.)/153-156 & 189-201 (9 <sup>th</sup> ed.)
Sept. 23	Amphibian diversity and decline	Ch. 10
Sept. 25	<b>EXAM 1</b>	
Sept. 30	Amphibian life histories	Ch. 10
Oct. 2	Amniote origins	pp. 211-218 (8 <sup>th</sup> ed.)/pp. 201-208 (9 <sup>th</sup> ed.)
Oct. 7	Amniote diversity/desert adaptations	Ch. 13
Oct. 9	Snakes	pp. 339-349 (8 <sup>th</sup> ed.)/pp. 317-327 (9 <sup>th</sup> ed.)
<b>Part 2: Dr. Margaret Rubega</b>		
Oct. 14	Turtles	Ch. 12
Oct. 16	Turtles, cont. & Archosaurs	Ch. 16
Oct. 21	Crocodylians & friends	Ch. 16
Oct. 23	Dinosaurs and other Mesozoic diapsids	Ch. 16
Oct. 28	Dinosaurs II	Ch. 16
Oct. 30	<b>EXAM 2</b>	
Nov. 4	Birds: Avian origins	pp. 439-443 (8 <sup>th</sup> ed.)/pp. 407-410 (9 <sup>th</sup> ed.)
Nov. 6	Birds: Feeding	Ch. 17
Nov. 11	Birds: Morphology and Reproduction	Ch. 17
Nov. 13	Mammals: Origins and radiations	Ch. 18
Nov. 18	Mammals: Primate evolution and human origins	Ch. 24
Nov. 20	Mammals: Diversity	Ch. 20
Dec. 2	Mammals: Morphology and Behavior	Ch. 21
Dec. 4	Vertebrate mass extinctions, past and present	Ch. 25
Dec. 12	<b>FINAL EXAM (10:30-12:30; TENTATIVE)</b>	