

BIOL 3725 - Mammalogy

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 43629,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Michael Butcher

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: *Professor of Zoology*

Instructor Professional Qualifications:

Postdoctoral Fellow (Bone Biomechanics), Clemson University

Ph. D., Zoology (Muscle Biomechanics), University of Calgary/Florida State University

M.S., Biology (Functional Morphology), Wake Forest University Instructor

Office Location: 4013 Ward Beecher Science Hall; Laboratory 4011 WBSH

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Course Description

3725. Mammalogy. Overview of structure, function, evolutionary history, behavior, ecology, and classification of mammals. Animal groups will be studied from diverse biological points of view. Three hours lecture. Prereq.: BIOL 2601, BIOL 2602. 3 s.h.

Mammalogy is a lecture course that provides a broad overview of the structure, function, evolutionary history, behavior, ecology, and classification of mammals. Mammals are incredibly diverse, and thus, accordingly, all orders of mammals will be studied from several biological points of view (morphological, physiological, etc.). This course will improve your understanding of mammalian convergence and divergence primarily through lectures (PowerPoint), and periodic use of anatomical models and discussions of primary literature. This course is also designed to meet pre-veterinary requirements, although non-domesticated species will be the primary focus of the lecture material and point-of-view discussions.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Mammalogy 6th Ed. 2011	Vaughan, Ryan, and Czaplewski.	978-1284032093

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Day	Date	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
Tue	8/25	Chapter 1	Intro to Mammalogy	
Thu	8/27	Chapter 2	Mammalian Origins	Review Lecture 1
Tue	9/1	Chapter 3	Mammalian Characteristics 1	Review Lecture 2
Thu	9/3	Chapter 3	Mammalian Characteristics 2	Review Lecture 3
Tue	9/8	Chapter 5	Monotremes	Review Lecture 4
Thu	9/10	Chapter 6 Chapter 25	Marsupials 1	Review Lecture 5
Tue	9/15	Chapter 6	Marsupials 2	Review Lecture 6
Thu	9/17	Chapter 7 Chapter 20	Dawn of Eutherian Mammals Exam Review	Review Lecture 7
Tue	9/22	Chapter 8	Afrotheria 1 (Tenrecs, Elephant shrews, Aardvark)	
Thu	9/24		Exam 1	Review Lectures 1-8



Tue	9/29	Chapter 8 Chapter 9	Afrotheria 2 (Proboscideans)	Review Lecture 9
Thu	10/1	Chapter 9 Chapter 24	Afrotheria 3, Body Mass Scaling	Review Lecture 10
Tue	10/6	Chapter 10 Chapter 21	Xenarthra 1 (Sloths) + Pholidota (Pangolins)	Review Lecture 11
Thu	10/8	Chapter 10 Chapter 21	Xenarthra 2 (Armadillos & Anteaters)	Review Lecture 12
Tue	10/13	Chapter 11	Erinaceomorpha + Soricomorpha	Review Lecture 13
Thu	10/15	Chapter 14	Dermoptera + Scandentia	Review Lecture 14
Tue	10/20		Exam 2	Review Lectures 9-15
Thu	10/22	Chapter 12	Primates 1 (Lemurs & Lorises)	
Tue	10/27	Chapter 12 Chapter 24	Primates 2 (Monkeys & Apes)	Review Lecture 16
Thu	10/29	Chapter 13	Rodentia 1 (Sciuromorpha)	Review Lecture 17
Tue	11/3	Chapter 13	Rodentia 2 (Myomorpha)	Review Lecture 18
Thu	11/5	Chapter 13	Rodentia 3 (Hystricomorpha) + Lagomorpha)	Review Lecture 19
Tue	11/10	Chapter 16 Chapter 21	Carnivora 1 (Feliformia)	Review Lecture 20
Thu	11/12	Chapter 16 Chapter 23	Carnivora 2 (Caniformia) + Pinnipedia	Review Lecture 21
Tue	11/17		Exam 3	Review Lectures 16-22
Thu	11/19	Chapter 19 Chapter 21	Cetacea	
Tue	11/24	Chapter 17 Chapter 27	Hoofed Animals 1 (Perissodactyla)	Review Lecture 23
Thu	11/26		Thanksgiving Holiday: No Lecture	
Tue	12/1	Chapter 18	Hoofed Animals 2 (Artiodactyla)	Review Lecture 24
Thu	12/3	Chapter 15 Chapter 22	Chiroptera 1 (Bats & Echolocation) Chiroptera 2 (Vampire Bats)	Review Lecture 25
Tue	12/8		Exam 4	Review Lecture 23-27

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.