

Virginia State University
Department of Biology
Course Syllabus: Spring 2004

BIOL 211 – Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy

(Lecture: 3 semester hours)
204 LB, MWF 8-8:50 am

Instructor: Dr. Paul Kaseloo

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Office hours: MWF 9-11 am; TR 11-1 pm or by appointment

Course description:

A course (with laboratory) designed to introduce students to important comparative aspects of the anatomy of the major vertebrate groups (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals). The course will include an introduction to chordates as a group, their relationship to invertebrates and phylogenetic relationships between groups. The morphogenesis in the different groups (i.e. changes during development) and a comparison of the major body systems (e.g. skeletal, muscular, circulatory, respiratory etc.) between groups will be made.

Students will gain an understanding of relationships between groups based on their morphology as well as learning parts of the anatomy. This background will help students understand not only anatomy, but also evolution and some aspects of the developmental biology and physiology of vertebrates. It is expected that students will gain knowledge of the groups in question and will be required to use library and on-line materials to complete a written assignment.

Text: Comparative Anatomy of the Vertebrates 9th edition. Kent and Carr, 2001, McGraw-Hill

Evaluation:

Tests – There will be four lecture tests each worth 100 points given in class. There will be a final comprehensive exam given during the final exam period (see attached schedule). Students are required to take all tests. Each test will consist of both multiple-choice questions and written questions. Makeup exams will be given only in extreme cases and will be all written in format.

Research Paper – Each student will prepare an original library research paper on an approved topic. The paper and presentation will be worth a possible 100 points. The body of the paper will be at least 4-5 pages typed (double-spaced) and will include a bibliography.

Grade calculation: Grades will be determined from the five test grades (500 total points) and the research paper (100 total points) scores by dividing the number of points earned by the total points available. Scale: 100-90% A; 89-80% B; 79-70% C; 69-60% D; below 60% F

Expectations:

It is expected that students will attend classes regularly, be punctual and attentive. Students should plan on at least three hours of studying outside of class for each lecture period. All students are expected to observe proper classroom decorum and disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Cell phones and other devices are to be turned off in class. Cheating will result in a score of zero for a test and will be reported.