

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Lani Lyman-Henley

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Office: STC 237 (McFarland Science Building)

Discord: Dr_Zot

Course Website: at MyLeo Online (D2L)

Office Hours: Message via email, text, & MyLeo Online anytime (usual response within 24 hrs.)

* Texts are fine, but *please identify yourself*- I don't answer OR call back mystery numbers.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Feldhamer, et al., 2020. Mammalogy: adaptation, diversity, ecology. Fifth Edition. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, Maryland, USA. **ISBN:** 978-1421436524

The text may be available in paperback or ebook form. I'm ok with students purchasing ebooks or renting to reduce expense. Do note that it is strongly recommended that you use the current edition of the text as listed.

COURSE MEETING TIME/PLACE: WEB-BASED COURSE

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Mammalogy - Three semester hours. The objective of this course is to survey the phylogenetic relationships, diversity, biology, and ecology of mammals, including an understanding of the characterization of the orders and families of the extant mammals based on morphological traits and evolutionary history.

COURSE FORMAT:

This is a "web-based" course- that is, you don't actually attend a lecture class. Instead, you do all your work via our **D2L** site - enter through your MyLeo page. Check the website frequently (I'd recommend daily!) for announcements, instructions, and discussion; the closest thing to a lecture or office hours you'll get from me will be in the course discussion boards or via email. Try everything out early so you know that you can access it all. If you have difficulty with the material, talk to me *as soon as you can* for advice on how best to improve. Be sure to turn in work using appropriate file formats (doc, pdf, rtf, etc.- and NOT zip files!); if I can't open or read your work it cannot be graded and will be given a 0 score. I can't stress enough how important it is to keep up with the material...with this much reading and writing, especially with the brevity of a Summer course, it can be really difficult to catch up if you fall behind!

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Students will be familiar with what the study of mammalogy entails
- Students will gain familiarity with mammal taxa and the basics of their identification and classification
- Students will be familiar with examples of mammalian ecology, behavior, and physiological adaptations.
- Students will develop a reading tradition
- Students will be able to find and interpret scientific literature pertaining to the subject matter.
- Students will be able to communicate scientific data and literature in both written and oral presentation format.

LEARNING STRATEGIES:

- Reading assignments
- Analysis of scientific literature
- Individual work, analysis of free reading
- Written synthesis of information

ATTENDANCE: Being an online course, attendance is measured by demonstrated time at the website. This is measured in two main ways- time spent actually logged into the site (yes, I can see that information), and participation in activities demonstrating you are engaged and participating. Minimum allowable attendance should reflect *at least* weekly logins- more appropriate and beneficial interaction will be rewarded in your grade (see below). If Zoom sessions are scheduled, attendance will count toward your participation.

A BIT ON ORGANIZATION: We are going in the order the main text is organized in, so you can start at the beginning! Please **DO** read the Preface of the text before starting the chapters. Feel free to read ahead, but do check back for specifics to review and discuss if you get ahead of the assignment postings so you don't skip over stuff. D2L will have specific information and places to post/submit your work – be sure you are able to find everything there. Please **DO NOT** fall behind on reading- there is a lot of material to cover and it will pile up fast if you let it slide. The textbook will be the “meat” of your course reading, but not the whole meal!

Do remember that this is an Advanced Undergraduate level course, and therefore you will be expected to show appropriate levels of effort. You will be responsible for textbook readings, plus assorted outside readings as assigned (again, visit D2L frequently for guidance), you will be expected to take part in discussions in a mature and in-depth manner, to write in a clear and professional voice, and you should not need excessive amounts of instructor “hand-holding.”

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS*

Week	Starting Date (M)	Topic	
1	July 8	Part I: Introduction	Ch. 1-5
2	July 15	Part II: Structure and Function	Ch. 6-9
3	July 22	Part III: Adaptive radiation and Biodiversity	Ch. 10-21
4	July 29	Part IV: Behavior and ecology	Ch. 22-26
5	Aug. 5	Part V: Special Topics	Ch. 27-28
	Aug. 8	Last Day of Class	

*This schedule is a general outline for your reference and is subject to change. Note that only the main textbook chapters have been listed; additional readings may be required. Any changes will be announced in class /at the course website; you will be responsible for keeping up with them.

MATERIAL AND GRADING: This course is partially self-paced: there are periods in which you need to complete given portions of the work, but you can schedule your specific work times as pleases you- and don't forget the website is still active at night, on holidays and weekends! The material for this class will be organized around content blocks. Please see the Topic folders at D2L for guidance through specific chapters and materials. Each section will have a Commentary

devoted to guiding you through the material to study- read that first, then work any assignments given as you study the material. Do note that each Week's section focuses on a part of the text, but the number of chapters/pages covered varies quite a bit. Plan your time accordingly.

For each Week there will be an Exam, a short written assignment (Journal Article), and a Participation measure. There will also be a single Literature Review paper due for the term.

Grades will be computed based on a "10-point scale" such that a total of 90% or higher of possible points will result in a grade of A, between 80% and 89.9% a B, and so on. If your total is lower than 60% of the class points you will fail the class (yes, that's an F). The points are planned to be as follows:

Exams (5)	500
Journal Articles (5)	50
Weekly Participation (5)	50
Paper (1)	<u>100</u>
Total course points	700

With a 700 point total, minimum scores for each letter grade would be 630 (A), 560 (B), 490 (C), and 420 (D). Any changes will be announced in class- this is a maximum workload, some items may be reduced, but the total will not exceed this outline.

Exams (5) will cover the material assigned for a given week, and will be posted on the Monday following each section (so the same date listed for the NEXT section's start). This means that you can start reading material whenever you want, but the *exam* over each block is scheduled. Exams will be available only for a brief time- be sure to keep up with D2L.

Participation: Each week you will need to post in the Discussion forum at D2L regarding the week's reading topics. There will be prompts there for you to respond to. These postings are encouraged to be interactive between classmates, so feel free to respond to each other's posts. I will check for contributions shortly after the end of each Week.

There will be two types of written assignment required.

Journal Articles (5): Reading and assimilating information is a critical part of your current and continuing education. For each assigned date, a journal is named in the right column of the table- choose and read a paper from that journal that you find interesting or relevant. These journals are available in our library (online resources). At the end of that week, provide a citation and a short description of the paper (10 sentences). Each summary will follow the format of Journal of Mammalogy.

Date	Journal
WEEK 1	Journal of Mammalogy
WEEK 2	Wildlife Society Bulletin
WEEK 3	Wildlife Research (open source)
WEEK 4	The Journal of Wildlife Management
WEEK 5	Animal Behaviour

Literature Review Paper (1): You will do a literature review paper discussing the biology of an extant species of mammal. Further details will be provided at D2L. This will be due the last day of class.

Working together on some presentations is encouraged, studying together can be highly beneficial, but exams and turned-in assignments must be done *individually*. Cheating, plagiarism, and disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.

Late or Make- Up Work: Since there are no actual class meetings or sit-down exam periods, there really isn't any use for "make-up" work. All work will have a deadline posted; assignments MAY be accepted late, but will be penalized on an increasing scale (the later it is, the more points it loses). Please contact me immediately if you are "absent" long enough to miss any due dates, but in general I strongly recommend planning ahead to avoid such problems. Being a Summer section, time will pass very quickly! Obtain a calendar or planner for the semester, and USE IT. Extreme circumstances will always be taken into consideration- TALK TO ME before you assume anything.

RESOURCES:

There are a variety of resources at your disposal to aid with your studies. This lecture is "Web Enhanced"- it has a D2L (MyLeo Online) site that you will be expected to use regularly; you can enter via your MyLeo account.

The **Academic Success Center** services include tutoring and workshops (including such topics as "Managing Test Anxiety"); here's the link:
<http://www.tamuc.edu/CampusLife/CampusServices/AcademicSuccessCenter/default.aspx> .

And of course the Academic Calendar, which does include information regarding University holidays, deadlines to add, drop, withdraw, and other such activities. This page also includes the link to each semester's Final Exam schedule (which may also be useful for your other courses): <http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/academicCalendars/>

OTHER NOTES (INCLUDING OFFICIAL UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS/AKA: THE FINE PRINT)

It is the responsibility of the student to inform me of any problems you may have affecting your performance in class, be it due to professionally diagnosed disability, personal or work-related problems, or anything else that comes up, so that appropriate adjustments can be made.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

AI use in courses

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesprocedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesprocedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01. <http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

“Plagiarism is a criminal activity. You must cite all sources of information. Unreferenced copying of material, whether parts of sentences, whole sentences, paragraphs or entire articles, will result in a score of zero for your essay and can result in further disciplinary action.” Note that this is true throughout the University and we do have plagiarism-detecting software in place. Of special note in an online environment- “cut and paste” from websites without appropriate citation IS plagiarism, yet putting everything in quotation marks is not an acceptable alternative. You must learn to construct your own sentences with information you find (and changing a couple of words in a sentence or reordering sentences in a paragraph are not enough). If you have any questions about what is considered plagiarism or wish advice on avoiding it, please contact your instructor.

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Waters Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Counseling Services Statement

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

FINAL NOTE:

I make efforts to conserve resources (and cost) in providing materials for class. All materials provided in class are to be found at the D2L website. I will not provide hard-copy handouts of anything that you can access there- you may print what you need, when you need it; or just download a copy to have handy. Clearly computer access is assumed of all students. If you do not have one of your own (or your online access is limited), there are computer labs available all around campus- Waters Library most notably, and more locally Science building room 210. There are even kiosks for checking out a laptop. You may need to provide your own paper for printing, or pay a charge. Also, places like Staples and OfficeDepot will print materials for a reasonable fee if you bring your flash-drive. Last bit of advice: **Get a Calendar. Learn how to use it.** ©