



Course Syllabus: Zoology: Animal Life
College of Science and Mathematics
BIOL 3114 Section 201
Spring 2026

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Roy Vogtsberger
Office: Bolin Science Hall 224H
Office hours: M 3-4, T,R 2-4
Office phone: (940) 397-4612
E-mail: roy.vogtsberger@msutexas.edu

Course Description

A basic survey of major phyla of the Kingdom Animalia to include anatomy, physiology, ecology, nutrition, reproduction, disease agents, economic impacts, classification/taxonomy, unique characteristics, and life cycles. The structure and function of various cells, tissues, organs, and organ systems and their interrelationships in different groups of animals will be comparatively examined.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Integrated Principles of Zoology, 19th Edition, by Cleveland P. Hickman, Jr., Susan L. Keen, David J. Eisenhour, Allan Larson, and Helen l'Anson, 2024.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook 2025-2026](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Student Handbook 2025-2026](#)

Grading

Table 1: Percentage allocated to each assignment.

Assignments	Percentage
Lecture Test #1	17.5

Assignments	Percentage
Lecture Test #2	17.5
Lecture Test #3	17.5
Lecture Final Exam	17.5
Lab Grade	30
Total Percentage	100

Table 2: Total percentage for final grade.

Grade	Percentage
A	90 to 100
B	80 to 89
C	70 to 79
D	60 to 69
F	Less than 60

Lecture Exams

There will be four, equally-weighted major exams (including the final exam) that will each be worth 17.5% of your overall grade for the class. The final exam will NOT be comprehensive but will cover all of the material since the previous exam. Lecture exams will all be a multiple choice testing format. Make-up exams will be administered ONLY FOR EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES OR UNIVERSITY-AUTHORIZED ABSENCES. You **MUST** present a valid university excuse to me and/or make arrangements with me **BEFORE** an exam is missed in order to be able to make up a missed lecture exam. If a make-up exam is granted, it should be taken immediately (i.e. before exam results are revealed to the class). **DO NOT MISS AN EXAM!!!!** Academic honesty must be practiced at all times.

Final Exam

Final exam will count 17.5% of your overall grade for the class, will be a multiple choice testing format, and will be administered from 8:00-10:00 AM on Monday, May 11, 2026.

Extra Credit

Extra credit assignments are not available.

Make Up Tests

Make-up exams will be administered ONLY FOR EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES OR UNIVERSITY-AUTHORIZED ABSENCES. You **MUST** present a valid university excuse to me and/or make arrangements with me **BEFORE** the exam is missed in order to be able to make up a missed lecture exam. If a make-up exam is granted, it should be taken immediately (i.e. before exams are passed back to the class).

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: January 23, 2026.

Deadline to file for graduation: February 16, 2026.

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W": April 29, 2026.

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Attendance

You are expected to attend all classes. A lot of material is presented in each class period, which makes it easy to fall behind if a class is missed. If you miss a class, it is **YOUR** responsibility to get class notes from classmates or any handouts from your instructor. Excessive absences will usually result in failure of the course. Students should refer to the current MSU Student Handbook for university policy on academic dishonesty, class attendance, student rights and activities. For example, see page 43 for information on class attendance policy and page 8 for the student honor creed.

Aids for Success

MAKE SURE YOU READ YOUR TEXTBOOK! Most of the material for exams will be derived from the textbook and notes. Read the chapter(s) assigned for each class period. Lectures should correspond to the chapters indicated on your syllabus. Take thorough lecture notes to make sure you get material covered in lecture that is not in the text.

Class Policies

Class Prerequisite: Eight semester hours of biology, each course with a grade of C or better.

Class Requirements: This class contains both a lecture and separate lab component to it. You must be registered in both the lecture and lab and attend both.

ALL PHONES SHOULD BE **OFF IN THE CLASSROOM.**

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. **HOWEVER**, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state)

exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students With Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule

Week or Date	Topics/Exams	Chapters
1/19	MLK HOLIDAY	No Class
Week 1 1/21 to 1/23	Introduction; Sponges; Cnidarians and Ctenophores	12, 13
Week 2 1/26 to 1/30	Cnidarians and Ctenophores; Flatworms and Rotifers; Ribbon Worms	13, 14, 15
Week 3 2/2 to 2/6	Molluscs; Annelids; Nematodes	16, 17, 18
Week 4 2/9	Nematodes	18
2/11	Test #1	12-18
Week 4 2/13	Arthropoda: Introduction and Trilobites	19
Week 5 2/16 to 2/20	Arthropoda: Chelicerates, Myriapods, and Crustaceans	19, 20
Week 6 2/23 to 2/27	Arthropoda: Hexapods; Echinoderms; Chordates	21, 22, 23
Week 7 3/2 to 3/6	Fishes; Amphibians; Nonavian Reptiles; Birds; Mammals	24, 25, 26, 27, 28
3/9 to 3/13	SPRING BREAK	Have fun!
Week 8 3/16	Test #2	19-28
Week 8 3/18 to 3/20	Support, Protection, and Movement	29
Week 9 3/23 to 3/27	Homeostasis: Osmoregulation, Excretion, Temperature Regulation	30
Week 10 3/30 to 4/1	Internal Fluids	31
4/3	EASTER HOLIDAY	Enjoy!
Week 11 4/6 to 4/10	Respiration; Digestion and Nutrition	31, 32
Week 12 4/13	Test #3	29-32
Week 12 4/15 to 4/17	Nervous System	33
Week 13 4/20 to 4/24	Nervous System; Sense Organs	33
Week 14 4/27 to 5/1	Endocrine System; Reproductive System	34, 7
Week 15 5/4 to 5/8	Reproductive System	7
5/11	Final Exam	33, 34, 7