

**Mammalogy (Biol 4233/5253) 3 credit hours
Fall 2023**

Instructor: Ray E. Willis, Ph.D.
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Recommended Text: Mammalogy: Adaptation, Diversity, Ecology 5th ed by Feldhamer

Course organization:

Mammalogy is a lecture course presented as two 50-minute lectures per week and a three hour lab. It is suggested that you keep abreast of the material and study after each class as opposed to trying to “cram” prior to the test. The student should be familiar with all of this information for exams. It is **strongly recommended** that students read associated text chapters before the first class meeting of the week.

Office hours: During the following time periods, the professor may be found in office and is available for consultation without previous appointment. If you cannot meet during these hours, please see or email the professor to set up an appointment.

9:00 to 10:00 MWF in office

9:30 to 10:30 T-Th in office

Evaluation of student achievement:

Exams: During the semester there will be 2 in-class exams and 1 final exam. Additionally, there will be 1 or 2 lab practicals depending on schedule.

Make-ups: It is important that all exams be completed as scheduled. If it is necessary for a student to miss an exam, **the student must notify the professor within 24 hours of the scheduled exam.**

Testing conditions: Once an exam has been handed out, students are not allowed to leave the classroom and return. Please make every effort to come to the classroom prepared for the test. **All cell phones must be silenced before the test is handed out. Do NOT pull out your cell phone at anytime during the test!** If it is necessary for you to wear a hat, the bill must be turned so your face is not obscured during the test. All personal items must be stored under your desk so that the exam proctor may use the aisles during the exam. Attempting to cheat on an exam by looking at someone’s test is a serious offense and will result in a grade of zero for that exam. Please consult Student Handbook for process of disciplinary action. Grades will be available as soon as possible. **I will not post grades or give them out over the phone or e-mail.**

Final exam Thursday December 14th 8:00 - 10:00

Grading scale: Students must demonstrate a mastery of at least 60% of the material presented to pass the course as evidenced by their grades on the exams and graded assignments. The scale used to assign the letter grades will be as follows:

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| 100-90% | A |
| 89-80% | B |
| 79-70% | C |
| 69-60% | D |
| below 60% | F |

Graduate Students: Each graduate student has the responsibility to have a deeper level of knowledge than undergraduates. Graduate exams will consist of the same material as the undergraduate exam. The essay questions of the exams will be graded for more complete content in your answers. Additionally, I will ask one or two more complex questions which you will be expected to answer thoroughly to receive complete credit.

Class attendance policy:

Students should attend every lecture. It will be very difficult to pass this class without participating in the lecture series. I will announce which chapters we will cover for the following week. I will not necessarily follow the order of the book. Additionally, I will announce tests dates in class once I feel I have covered enough material. It is the practice of MSU to allow students to participate in university-sponsored events, even when those events cause them to be absent from class. Students participating in university-sponsored events will be given reasonable opportunities to make up missed assignments and exams. It is up to the student to notify the professor that they will miss an assignment due to a sponsored event **BEFORE** the event occurs.

Policy regarding disabilities: Any student have a certified disabling condition should see the professor about making any necessary course modifications as early in the course as possible. Assistance is also available through Disability Support Services.

Flexibility Clause: Circumstances may arise during the course of the semester that may prevent the professor from fulfilling parts of this syllabus; therefore, it should be viewed as a guide and subject to change. Students will be notified of any changes.