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BIOO 475.00: Mammalogy

Jedediah Farrell Brodie

University of Montana, Missoula, jedediah.brodie@umontana.edu

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BIOO 475 – MAMMALOLOGY – Fall Semester 2021

Instructor information

Instructor: Dr. Jedediah Brodie

Email: jedediah.brodie@umontana.edu

Office: NS 208A

Office hours: Tues 9:30-10:30; Wed 9-10 or by appointment *arranged in advance* (no drop-ins). Even for the regularly-scheduled office hours, it's a good idea to send me an email in advance to let me know you're planning on coming.

Teaching assistants

Connor Meyer: connor.meyer@umontana.edu

Cynthia Ulbing: cynthia.ulbing@umconnect.umt.edu

Course description

This course covers the evolution, biogeography, systematics/phylogenetics, anatomy, physiology, ecology, and natural history of mammals. We will cover all of the extant (and many of the extinct) mammal lineages, exploring the evolutionary and ecological forces that led to their current distributions and diversity. Concurrent enrollment in the lab is required – the lab will focus on identification, morphology, and anatomy.

Required readings for the lecture portion of the course

1. Scientific journal articles as assigned during lecture

Learning outcomes

1. Describe the evolutionary and biogeographic history of the major extant and extinct mammal lineages
2. Compare the ecological and evolutionary factors that shaped (and continue to shape) the diversification and spread of different mammal groups
3. Summarize the key morphological, physiological, and ecological characteristics of the major mammal lineages
4. Identify mammals based on internal and external morphology
5. Interpret evolutionary relationships based on phylogenetic cladograms

Upper division writing requirement

This course (combined lecture and lab), in conjunction with two additional upper division writing courses, meets the university upper division writing requirement. BIOO 475 specifically has the following writing-oriented learning outcomes:

1. Identify and pursue more sophisticated questions for academic inquiry
2. Find, evaluate, analyze, and synthesize information effectively from diverse sources
3. Manage multiple perspectives as appropriate
4. Recognize the purposes and needs of discipline-specific audiences and adopt the academic voice necessary for the chosen discipline
5. Use multiple drafts, revision, and editing in conducting inquiry and preparing written work

6. Follow the conventions of citation, documentation, and formal presentation appropriate to that discipline
7. Develop competence in information technology and digital literacy

Approximately 50% of the grade in this course is based on formal and informal writing assignments, with written feedback and opportunity for revision. These assignments include two essays (each turned in and graded at both draft and final stage) and lab reports, totaling ~8 pages.

Student Conduct Code

Please read and familiarize yourself with the *Student Conduct Code* (<http://www.umt.edu/student-affairs/community-standards/default.php>). In particular, note that we have *zero tolerance for plagiarism*. Your assignments may be run through DupliChecker anti-plagiarism software. As a rule-of-thumb, avoid using more than 3 words in a row that are the same as another source.

Let me say it again: *zero tolerance for plagiarism*.

Covid safety

- Mask use is required within the classroom and laboratory, as per university policy.
- If you feel sick or are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, please don't come to class and contact the Curry Health Center at (406) 243-4330.
- If you are required to isolate or quarantine, you will receive support in the class to ensure continued academic progress.
- UM recommends students get the COVID-19 vaccine. Please direct your questions or concerns about vaccines to Curry Health Center.
- Specific seating arrangements will be used to support contact-tracing efforts.
- Class attendance and seating will be recorded to support contact tracing efforts.
- Drinking liquids and eating food is discouraged within the classroom.

Missed exams

I do not offer any make-up exams except in the case of documented medical or psychological emergencies. In other words, I need a signed note from a doctor or psychologist saying that you were unable to be in class for a very good medical reason.

If someone in your family passes away, please accept my condolences. But you'll still need to take the exam at the time it is given unless you provide a note from a registered psychologist or psychiatrist that describes how you were mentally compromised on the day of the exam.

Disability and accessibility

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and the Office for Disability Equity (ODE). If you anticipate or experience barriers based on disability, please contact the ODE at: (406) 243-2243, ode@umontana.edu, or visit www.umt.edu/disability for more information. Retroactive accommodation requests will not be honored, so please do not delay. As your instructor, I will work with you and the ODE to implement an effective accommodation, and you are welcome to contact me privately if you wish.

Grading

These are the point totals for the lecture portion of the course, which is 50% of your total course grade. The lab constitutes the other half of your total course grade; the grading details for that are presented in the lab syllabus.

Assignment	Points
Midterm exam	80
Final exam	100
Essay 1 first draft	30
Essay 1 final draft	50
Essay 2 first draft	30
Essay 2 final draft	50
TOTAL	340

The final exam will be cumulative but weighted towards material covered since the midterm.