

COURSE OUTLINE
Grading Systems



School of Arts & Science

ENVR 242 Vertebrate Diversity and Ecology
Winter 2009

COURSE OUTLINE

This course covers the principles of systematics, identification and environmental relationships of selected B.C. vertebrates, with emphasis on animal taxa of ecological and economic value. Labs stress keying and taxonomy and include field-trips. Policy, legislation and management principles are discussed.

Prerequisites: Biology 124

Section	A	B
Lab	Tuesday 9:30-12:20	Tuesday 2:30-5:20
Lecture	Friday 9:30-11:20	

1. Instructor Information

Instructor: **Annette Dehalt**, M.Sc.

Office hours: drop-in Wed & Th 11:00–1:00 and Fri 11:30-12:30
and by appointment if necessary

Office location: F 248 D

Phone: 370-3432

e-mail: dehalt@camosun.bc.ca

web site: <http://www.dehalt.disted.camosun.bc.ca>

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

- Use logic, critical thinking and the scientific method in combination with biological terminology pertinent to vertebrates found in B.C.
- Use biological identification keys for selected groups of vertebrates of B.C.
- Sample terrestrial and aquatic habitats for vertebrates and understand basic methods of habitat restoration
- Describe biodiversity issues, including rare and endangered species, introduced species, overharvesting impacts and effects of habitat loss
- Discuss the principles of systematics, evolution and wildlife management as they apply to the important ecological or economic vertebrate species of B.C
- Discuss the importance and impact of policy and legislation on wildlife management issues

3. Required Materials

(a) ENVR 242 Laboratory Manual

(b) optional: vertebrate field guides, binoculars, clip-board

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4. Course Content and Schedule

The following tentative schedule is subject to change if deemed necessary by the instructor.

Wk	Wk of	Lab/Field Exercises (Tues)	Lecture Topics (Fri)
1	Jan 5	RBCM field-trip (Lab 1)	Introduction; Biodiversity
2	Jan 12	Field Methods (Lab 2)	Fishes
3	Jan 19	Fishes (Lab 3)	Amphibians
4	Jan 26	Amphibians (Lab 4) Seminar Topic due	Reptiles
5	Feb 2	Reptiles (Lab 5)	Quiz ; Birds
6	Feb 9	Birds (Lab 6) Seminar Outline due	Birds; Mammals
7	Feb 16	Birding field-trip (hand-out)	<i>(no class - Reading Break)</i>
8	Feb 23	Fish Habitat Restoration field-trip (hand-out)	Mammals cont.
9	Mar 2	Mammals (Lab 7)	Midterm & movie
10	Mar 9 <i>last d2W</i>	Seminar Presentations: B.C. Vertebrate Issues	Vertebrate Behavior
11	Mar 16	Herpetology field-trip I: reptiles or amphibians (hand-out)	Human interactions with other vertebrates
12	Mar 23	Herpetology field-trip II: reptiles or amphibians (hand-out)	Human interactions with other vertebrates cont.
13	Mar 30	Lab Exam	Conservation & Wildlife Management; Animal Welfare; Legislation
14	Apr 6	Whale watching field-trip (hand-out)	<i>(no class – Good Friday)</i>

Final Exam during final exam period (April 14-22) – scheduled by registrar

Avoid making travel or work plans during the final exam period, as you are expected to give priority to your exam schedule!

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5. Basis of Student Assessment

Quiz	5%
Midterm	15%
Lab Exam	20%
Seminar Presentation	10%
Lab/Field Participation	
& Assignments	20%
Final Exam	30%

The quiz, midterm and the final exam will be a mix of multiple choice and short answer/short essay questions. The lab exam will consist of a series of “stations” consisting of equipment, diagrams, data and/or specimens, with accompanying questions testing both practical and theoretical knowledge.

The seminar presentation (done in pairs) will focus on a current issue concerning one or more vertebrate species in B.C. It will include a 10-15 minute powerpoint presentation, as well as a question and answer period (hand-out with details provided).

The final lecture exam will be cumulative, with proportionately greater emphasis on the last unit not covered by the midterm. The final exam will be held after classes, during the final exam period – check CAMLINK for dates during the latter part of the semester.

6. Grading System

The following percentage conversion to letter grade will be used:

A+ = 90 - 100%	B = 73 - 76%	D = 50 - 59%
A = 85 - 89%	B- = 70 - 72%	F = 0 - 49%
A- = 80 - 84%	C+ = 65 - 69%	
B+ = 77 - 79%	C = 60 - 64%	

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy E-1.5 at camosun.ca for further information.

7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

There is an Academic Conduct Policy. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, Registration, and on the College web site in the Policy Section.

www.camosun.bc.ca/divisions/pres/policy/2-education/2-5.html

LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College Calendar, Registrar's Office or the College web site at

<http://www.camosun.bc.ca>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Academic Conduct: Cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated in any form, and may result in “0”. Each student is required to sign and hand in a Field and Laboratory Safety Contract prior to commencing practical work in the course. You are expected to attend all classes and labs, and be on time. It is your responsibility to acquire all information given during a class missed, incl. notes, hand-outs, assignments, laboratory data, changed exam dates etc.

Exams: Exams have to be written when scheduled. A missed exam results in “0” except in case of documented emergency or illness (doctor’s note required stating that student is too sick to attend class during a specified time period). Valid documentation of illness/emergency needs to be received **within 1 week** of the illness/emergency in order to be eligible for a make-up exam. **Please bring a pen and soft pencil to all exams. No programmable devices are allowed in exams.**

Labs and Field-trips: You need to attend labs/field-trips and the lab exam during your assigned section (A or B). Switching between sections on a permanent or temporary basis requires instructor’s permission. Assignments can only be handed in for labs/field-trips actually attended (except in cases of documented illness/emergency). You are encouraged to discuss assignments with your lab partner, however, **each assignment has to be your individual work – beware of plagiarism.** It is absolutely necessary to read and **work through each exercise before coming to lab.** Part of the final lab/field mark will be based on active and engaged participation.

Assignments: Unless otherwise stated, all assignments are due at the ***beginning*** of the lab/class of the due date. The first late assignment/term is penalty-free – otherwise a **15%/day non-negotiable late penalty** (rounded to the nearest full mark) applies, except in cases of documented illness/emergency. Late assignments will **not** be accepted after marked assignments have been returned to the rest of the class one week after the due date. A **professional format** is expected, i.e. a neat, legible, clean copy. “Rough” drafts risk rejection and a subsequent late penalty or reduced marks. If the assignment is more than one page, separate pages ***must be stapled.***

Study Habits: (Vertebrate) Biology is not very difficult, but may be surprisingly labor-intensive... Good (and regular!!) study habits are required to do well in this course. Joining a study group can often make course work more fun. Some **“study hints” are posted on the course web site**, and the college also offers study skill courses and individual consultations.

Lecture notes will be provided in point form and posted on the web for you to print prior to class. These should be used as a guideline, not as your sole source of information! You will need to write down additional notes of examples and explanations given during lecture. It is also recommended practice to transcribe these notes into a study-friendly format after each lecture, incorporating additional information from other sources. Study these notes before the next class as well as before the corresponding lab to be fully prepared.

Exam questions will be based on material covered or pointed out in class. However, reading and studying additional sources of information will help you understand the material more thoroughly. It is not sufficient simply to memorize point-form notes! Please keep up with your studies, and take advantage of office hours if you need extra clarification and help, or simply would like to discuss a topic a little further.