

**COURSE OUTLINE**  
**Grading Systems**

---



**School of Arts & Science**

**ENVR 242 Vertebrate Diversity and Ecology**  
**Winter 2010**

**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	9:30-12:20 in F244	2:30-5:20 in F244
Lecture	9:30-11:20 in Y201	

**1. Instructor Information**

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

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

Office location: F 248 D

Phone: 370-3432

e-mail: [dehalt@camosun.bc.ca](mailto: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

**COURSE OUTLINE**  
Grading Systems

---

**4. Course Content and Schedule**

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

<b>Wk #</b>	<b>Wk of</b>	<b>Lab/Field Exercises (Tues)</b>	<b>Lecture Topics (Fri)</b>
1	Jan 4	<i>No lab (college closed)</i>	Introduction; Biodiversity
2	Jan 11	Field Methods (Lab 2)	Fishes
3	Jan 18	Fishes (Lab 3)	Amphibians
4	Jan 25	Amphibians (Lab 4) <b>Seminar Topic due</b>	Reptiles
5	Feb 1	Reptiles (Lab 5)	<b>Quiz</b> Birds
6	Feb 8	Birds (Lab 6) <b>Seminar Outline due</b>	Birds; Mammals
7	Feb 15 <i>2/18-19 reading break</i>	Birding field-trip	<i>No class: reading break</i>
8	Feb 22	Fish Habitat Restoration field-trip	Mammals cont.
9	Mar 1	Mammals (Lab 7)	<b>Midterm</b>
10	Mar 8 <i>3/ 10 last d2W</i>	Marine Mammal field-trip	Vertebrate Behavior
11	Mar 15	<b>Seminar Presentations:</b> B.C. Vertebrate Issues	Human Interactions with Other Vertebrates
12	Mar 22	Herpetology field-trip II: reptiles or amphibians	Threats to Vertebrate Species and Individuals; Conservation & Wildlife Management; Animal Welfare
13	Mar 29	Herpetology field-trip I: reptiles or amphibians	<i>No class: Good Friday</i>
14	Apr 5	<b>Lab Exam</b> & movie	Legislation Affecting Vertebrates in B.C.

**Final Exam** during final exam period (April 12-20) – scheduled by registrar - check CAMLINK

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

# COURSE OUTLINE

## Grading Systems

---

### 5. Basis of Student Assessment

Quiz	5%
Midterm	20%
Lab Exam	30%
Seminar Presentation	3%
Lab/Field Assignments	10%
Lab/Field Participation	2%
Final Exam	30%

Midterms and lab exams will be unit exams (i.e. *not* cumulative).

The final lecture exam will be cumulative, with proportionately greater emphasis on the last unit not covered by the previous midterm. Midterm and final exams will be a mix of multiple choice and short answer/short essay questions. Lab exams are set up as a series of “stations” consisting of equipment, data and/or specimens, with accompanying questions testing both practical and theoretical knowledge.

The seminar presentation (done in groups of 2 or 3) will focus on a current issue concerning one or more vertebrate species in B.C. It will include a 10 minute oral presentation in a circle format, as well as a question and answer period (hand-out with details provided).

### 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](http://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](http://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>

## COURSE OUTLINE

### Grading Systems

---

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Academic Conduct:** Be sure that you are familiar not only with the Student Conduct Code (s.a.), but also with the General Department Policies, which are stated in the lab manual.

**Cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated in any form, and will result in "0".**

Each student is required to sign and hand in a Laboratory Safety Contract prior to commencing laboratory work in the course.

**Attendance:** 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.** There are no make-up exams during the term. **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 be received **within 1 week** of the illness/emergency. With a valid excuse, the weighting of the missed exam will be added to the final exam, along with additional questions on course material of that unit. **Please bring a pen and soft pencil to all exams. No programmable devices are allowed in exams.**

**Labs:** You need to attend labs and lab exams during your assigned section (A or B). Switching between sections on a permanent or temporary basis requires instructor's permission. Lab assignments can only be handed in for labs 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 mentally **work through each exercise before coming to lab.** Otherwise you may not be able to finish on time, annoy your lab partner, or flunk a pre-lab pop quiz.

**Assignments:** Unless otherwise stated, all assignments are due by 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. If the assignment is more than one page, separate pages must be **stapled**. "Rough" drafts risk rejection and a subsequent late penalty or reduced marks.

**Study Habits:** You will probably find this course not very difficult, but surprisingly labor-intensive. Good (and regular!!) study habits are required to do well in this course. You should plan on a **minimum of 6 hours** outside of scheduled class time for the completion of assignments and for general studying. Joining a study group can help this make 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 your textbook and other sources. Study these notes before the next class to prepare yourself for new material, which will often build on previously covered material.

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