

# COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: ENVR-242: Vertebrate Diversity & Ecology

CLASS SECTION: 001

TERM: W2023

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): Face to face

Camosun College campuses are located on the traditional territories of the Lək̓ʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples. We acknowledge their welcome and graciousness to the students who seek knowledge here.

Learn more about Camosun's [Territorial Acknowledgement](#).

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<HOLD FOR 2021F COVID-19 LANGUAGE>

*Camosun College requires mandatory attendance for the first class meeting of each course. If you do not attend, and do not provide your instructor with a reasonable explanation in advance, you will be removed from the course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student.*

## INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

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NAME: Kirk Hart

EMAIL: [hartk@camosun.ca](mailto:hartk@camosun.ca)

OFFICE: F346A

HOURS: T 12-130, W 1230-3

*As your course instructor, I endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me. Camosun College is committed to identifying and removing institutional and social barriers that prevent access and impede success.*

## CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

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This course covers the principles of systematics, identification and environmental relationships of selected BC vertebrates with emphasis on animal taxa of ecological and economic value. Labs stress keying, taxonomy, field sampling and include field trips. Policy, legislation, biodiversity issues and wildlife management principles are discussed throughout the course.

### PREREQUISITE(S):

All of:

- C in BIOL 124

### CO-REQUISITE(S):

Not applicable

### EXCLUSION(S):

Not applicable

## COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

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Upon completion of this course a student will be able to:

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

## REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

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No text book (notes and readings provided on course D2L page)

## COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, AND ASSOCIATED PREPARATION / ACTIVITY / EVALUATION

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The following schedule and course components are subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

<b>Wk</b>	<b>Week days</b>	<b>Lab/Field Exercises</b> <i>FT = Field Trip</i>	<b>Lecture Topics</b>
<b>1</b>	Jan 09-13	Introduction	Diversity/Phylogeny/Taxonomy
<b>2</b>	Jan 16-20	Lab 1: Field Methods	Anthrozoology – Interactions of Humans with other Animals; TEKW
<b>3</b>	Jan 23-27	Lab 2: Fishes	Fishes
<b>4</b>	Jan 30-Feb 3	Lab 3: Amphibians <b>Seminar Topic Due</b>	Amphibians
<b>5</b>	Feb 6-10	Lab 4: Reptiles	Reptiles

<b>6</b>	Feb 13-15	<i>FT: Birding - Esquimalt Lagoon</i>	Birds
<b>7</b>	Feb 20-24	<b>READING BREAK</b>	
<b>8</b>	Feb 27- March 3	Lab 5: Birds <b>Seminar Outline Due</b>	Birds cont. <b>Midterm (Th)</b>
<b>9</b>	Mar 6-10	<i>FT: Urban Deer</i>	Mammals
<b>10</b>	Mar 13-17	Lab 6: Mammals	Mammals cont.
<b>11</b>	Mar 20-24	<b>Seminar</b>	Threats to Individual Vertebrates; Animal Welfare Science & Legislation
<b>12</b>	Mar 27-Mar 30	<i>FT: Goldstream Salamanders</i>	Threats to Vertebrate Species; Ranking Systems
<b>13</b>	April 3-7	<b>Lab/Field Exam</b>	Wildlife Habitat Requirements; Conservation Biology & Wildlife Management
<b>14</b>	Apr 10-14	<b>Theory Final exam</b>	

Students registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) who complete quizzes, tests, and exams with academic accommodations have booking procedures and deadlines with CAL where advanced notice is required. Deadlines can be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html). <http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html>

#### EVALUATION OF LEARNING

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
Assignments	14
Midterm	19
Lab Exam	19
Final Exam	19
Seminar Presentation	19
Professionalism and Participation	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

If you have a concern about a grade you have received for an evaluation, please come and see me as soon as possible. Refer to the [Grade Review and Appeals](http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf) policy for more information.  
<http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf>

## COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

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**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”.**

**Attendance:** You are expected to attend all classes (lectures, labs and related activities), and be on time. It is your responsibility to acquire *all* information given during a missed class, 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:** It is necessary to read each exercise before coming to lab, correlate the material with lecture notes, and research any unknown terminology or emerging questions beforehand, in order to make best use of lab time. Instructions regarding field-trips will be provided in class.

**Assignments:** 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(s), however, **each assignment has to be your individual work – beware of plagiarism.** Unless otherwise stated, all assignments are due by the **beginning** of the lab/class of the due date. Marks will be based on all or on a portion of the entire assignment. The first late assignment/term is penalty-free – otherwise a **10%/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 indicating authorship by full name. 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. Forming a study group can help this make more fun. Some **“study hints” are posted on the course web site.**

Lecture notes will be provided in point form and are posted on the web for you to print prior to class. 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 recommended readings and other sources. Review these notes before the next class to prepare yourself for new material, which will often build on previously covered material.

Take advantage of office hours if you need extra clarification and help, or simply would like to discuss a topic of interest a little further.

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## SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

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## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

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Enrolment at Camosun assumes that the student will become a responsible member of the College community. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, assist in the preservation of College property, and assume responsibility for their education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

## SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

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Camosun College offers a number of services to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. For a detailed overview of the supports and services visit <http://camosun.ca/students/>.

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Academic Advising

<http://camosun.ca/advising>

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Accessible Learning

<http://camosun.ca/accessible-learning>

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Counselling

<http://camosun.ca/counselling>

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Career Services	<a href="http://camosun.ca/coop">http://camosun.ca/coop</a>
Financial Aid and Awards	<a href="http://camosun.ca/financialaid">http://camosun.ca/financialaid</a>
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	<a href="http://camosun.ca/help-centres">http://camosun.ca/help-centres</a>
Indigenous Student Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/indigenous">http://camosun.ca/indigenous</a>
International Student Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/international/">http://camosun.ca/international/</a>
Learning Skills	<a href="http://camosun.ca/learningskills">http://camosun.ca/learningskills</a>
Library	<a href="http://camosun.ca/services/library/">http://camosun.ca/services/library/</a>
Office of Student Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/oss">http://camosun.ca/oss</a>
Ombudsperson	<a href="http://camosun.ca/ombuds">http://camosun.ca/ombuds</a>
Registration	<a href="http://camosun.ca/registration">http://camosun.ca/registration</a>
Technology Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/its">http://camosun.ca/its</a>
Writing Centre	<a href="http://camosun.ca/writing-centre">http://camosun.ca/writing-centre</a>

If you have a mental health concern, please contact Counselling to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. Counselling sessions are available at both campuses during business hours. If you need urgent support after-hours, please contact the Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888 or call 911.

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## COLLEGE-WIDE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND STANDARDS

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### Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The College is committed to providing appropriate and reasonable academic accommodations to students with disabilities (i.e. physical, depression, learning, etc). If you have a disability, the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#) (CAL) can help you document your needs, and where disability-related barriers to access in your courses exist, create an accommodation plan. By making a plan through CAL, you can ensure you have the appropriate academic accommodations you need without disclosing your diagnosis or condition to course instructors. Please visit the CAL website for contacts and to learn how to get started:

<http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/>

### Academic Integrity

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.13.pdf> for policy regarding academic expectations and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

### Academic Progress

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.1.pdf> for further details on how Camosun College monitors students' academic progress and what steps can be taken if a student is at risk of not meeting the College's academic progress standards.

### Course Withdrawals Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <http://camosun.ca/learn/fees/#deadlines>.

### Grading Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

### Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

### Mandatory Attendance for First Class Meeting of Each Course

Camosun College requires mandatory attendance for the first class meeting of each course. If you do not attend, and do not provide your instructor with a reasonable reason in advance, you will be removed from the course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student. For more information, please see the “Attendance” section under “Registration Policies and Procedures” (<http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/procedures.html>) and the Grading Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf>.

### Medical / Compassionate Withdrawals

Students who are incapacitated and unable to complete or succeed in their studies by virtue of serious and demonstrated exceptional circumstances may be eligible for a medical/compassionate withdrawal. Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.8.pdf> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

### Sexual Violence and Misconduct

Camosun is committed to creating a campus culture of safety, respect, and consent. Camosun’s Office of Student Support is responsible for offering support to students impacted by sexual violence. Regardless of when or where the sexual violence or misconduct occurred, students can access support at Camosun. The Office of Student Support will make sure students have a safe and private place to talk and will help them understand what supports are available and their options for next steps. The Office of Student Support respects a student’s right to choose what is right for them. For more information see Camosun’s Sexualized Violence and Misconduct Policy: <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.9.pdf> and [camosun.ca/sexual-violence](http://camosun.ca/sexual-violence). To contact the Office of Student Support: [oss@camosun.ca](mailto:oss@camosun.ca) or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-3703841

### Student Misconduct (Non-Academic)

Camosun College is committed to building the academic competency of all students, seeks to empower students to become agents of their own learning, and promotes academic belonging for everyone. Camosun also expects that all students to conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to a positive, supportive, and safe learning environment. Please review Camosun College’s Student Misconduct Policy at

<http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College's expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

**Changes to this syllabus:** Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this syllabus is accurate at the time of publication. The College reserves the right to change courses if it becomes necessary so that course content remains relevant. In such cases, the instructor will give the students clear and timely notice of the changes.