

BIOS/NRES 476/876

Mammalogy Laboratory – Fall 2019

Time: Fridays 2:00-4:50pm

Location: Hardin 024 (in the basement)

Lab Instructor: Nathaniel “Nate” Wehr

E-mail: nwehr2@unl.edu

Office: Hardin 722

Office Hours: Thursday 1:00-3:00pm or by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Anna Oetting

E-mail: aoetting2@unl.edu

Office: Hardin 722

Course Prerequisites: 8hrs BIOS; BIOS/NRES 386 or NRES 311

Course Objectives:

After completing this course, you should be able to:

- Identify North American mammal species, particularly those in the Great Plains Region from skeletal structures, skins, tracks, and/or scat
- Identify skeletal structures common among mammals
- Identify organs common among mammals
- Demonstrate knowledge of the taxonomy, special physiology, ecology, range, conservation management issues, and techniques used to study these mammals
- Track and study mammals in the field
- Deploy game cameras and analyze data associated with them

Canvas

Canvas will be our main way of communicating outside of the lab, so please check it regularly.

After each lab section I will upload the PowerPoint presentations to Canvas for you to use.

Please be aware that the information on these PowerPoints are only a portion of what you are expected to study. You will additionally be responsible for other materials posted to Canvas as well as material covered in class and on field trips. Any changes to the syllabus will be mentioned in lab and on Canvas.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory for all students. If you miss lab, you are responsible for the material covered during that class. You will receive a 0% for any worksheets, quizzes, or practicals that you missed. I therefore strongly advise you to attend every lab meeting and field trip. If you have to miss lab or you cannot make it out into the field for legitimate reasons (e.g. school related functions, medical/family emergencies), please provide me with a formal note approving the absence. If possible, please provide me with advanced notice of these absences. Appropriate accommodations will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Late Work Policy

The majority of work will be completed in class. As such, no work will be accepted late (including the Scavenger Hunt due Dec. 6).

Lab regulations:

- 1) No food or beverages are allowed in the lab.
- 2) Wash and dry your hands before handling specimens.
- 3) Do not pet the skins as the oil on your hands is damaging.
- 4) Take extra caution when opening boxes and vials that include skeletons; they're fragile!
- 5) Do not point with a pen or pencil, use your finger or the tip of your paper.
- 6) Never pick up specimens by the tag or limb including the tail.

*Failure to abide by these rules can result in your removal from the laboratory, expulsion from the class, and a failing grade.

Additional Help

Please contact the instructor in person or by email with any problem. If you're having problems with the material, seek help early rather than later in the semester. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787 voice or TTY.

More information about helpful centers on campus:

First-Year Experience & Study Stops

<http://success.unl.edu>

Writing Center Consultations

<http://www.unl.edu/writing/>

Services for Students w/ Disabilities

<http://www.unl.edu/ssd/home>

Counseling & Psychological Services

[http://health.unl.edu/counseling-and-psychological-](http://health.unl.edu/counseling-and-psychological-services-caps)

[services-caps](http://health.unl.edu/counseling-and-psychological-services-caps)

Emergency Procedures:

Familiarize yourself with the emergency procedures posted in our classroom.

Fire Alarm (or other evacuation): In the event of a fire alarm, use the nearest exit to leave the building. This class gathers at the north side of the Hardin Hall parking lot (by the prairie). Do not return to building unless told to do so by emergency personnel.

Tornado Warning: When sirens sound, remain in or return to the basement.

Active Shooter: *Evacuate:* if there is a safe escape path, leave belongings behind, keep hands visible, and follow police officer instructions. *Hide:* if evacuation is impossible, secure yourself in your space by turning out lights, closing blinds, and barricading doors if possible. *Take action:* as a last resort, and only when your life is in imminent danger, attempt to disrupt and/or incapacitate the active shooter.

UNL Alert: Notifications about serious incidents on campus are sent via text message, email, unl.edu website, and social media. For more information go to < <http://unlalert.unl.edu> >. In case of an emergency, listen to the instructor's commands.

SNR Academic Dishonesty / Cheating / Plagiarism:

Students are expected to adhere to guidelines concerning academic dishonesty outlined in Section 4.2 of the University's Student Code of Conduct < <http://stuafs.unl.edu/dos/code/> >. Review Section 4 of UNL's Student Code of Conduct for definitions and warnings against cheating and plagiarism. UNL's policy on Academic Dishonesty states that a student may receive a sanction as severe as removal from a course with a failing grade for any type of Academic Dishonesty. Students are encouraged to contact the instructor for clarification of these guidelines if they have questions or concerns. The SNR policy on Academic Dishonesty is available at < <http://snr.unl.edu/employeeinfo/information/employeehandbook-single.asp?infocode=S162> >.

Our Policy:

At the first detection of cheating or plagiarism, at a minimum you will receive a failing grade on the assignment in question, and we will ask you to visit the instructor's office to discuss corrections to your work. Based on the case, we may also recommend a sanction beyond failing the assignment. If a second case occurs, you will be removed from the course with a failing grade. Remember that plagiarism goes beyond copying someone else's work. It also includes using ideas without proper citation. It is essential that you acknowledge the ideas of others, including your classmates, in all of your written work (worksheets, quizzes, practicals, presentations, scavenger hunt). Failing to properly cite ideas is as significant a violation as copying your friend's homework. If there are questions in regards to this, please ask one of your instructors for additional information.

Student Appeals of a School of Natural Resources Policy or Policy Decision

A student wishing to appeal an ENVR, GEOG, NRES, WATS or SNR policy or policy decision must first discuss with his or her academic adviser the policy or decision in question. If a satisfactory solution is not achieved with the adviser, the student may request a decision from the SNR Undergraduate Committee (undergraduate student) or Graduate Committee (graduate student) and then the SNR Director (in that order). If a satisfactory solution is not achieved at the School level, the student may appeal his or her case through the appropriate College Dean's Office, using that body's appeal process. Students appealing a policy decision must do so within one semester (Fall or Spring) following the decision.

Student Appeals of School of Natural Resources Course Grades

In the event of a dispute involving ENVR, GEOG, NRES, or WATS course grades, the student must first appeal to his or her instructor and, failing resolution with the instructor, to the SNR Undergraduate Committee (undergraduate level course) or Graduate Committee (graduate level course), and then to the SNR Director in writing (in that order). If a satisfactory solution is not achieved at the School level, the student may appeal his or her case through the appropriate College Grade Appeals Committee using that body's process. If a grade is appealed to the appropriate SNR Committee, the instructor must provide a written justification for the awarding of the grade. The student shall provide an account of the grounds for the grade appeal and evidence that the student has sought to resolve the case in consultation with the instructor. Students appealing a course grade must do so within one semester (Fall or Spring) following the grade.

Grading

Assignment	Details	Points
Worksheet	10 at 10 points each	100
Presentation	1 worth 50 points	50
Scavenger Hunt	1 worth 50 points	50
Data Entry	1 worth 20 points	20
Quizzes	4 at 20 points each	80
Midterm Practical Exams	2 at 75 points each	150
Final Practical Exam	1 worth 150 points	150
Total		600

The total grade received in lab will count as 25% of your overall mammalogy grade. For example, if you get 540 of the 600 available points, you will get a 90% in lab, which means you'd receive 22.5 of the available 25 total percentage points from the lab that count towards your overall grade.

Assignment Explanations:

Worksheets will be given to students at the beginning of class and are expected to be turned in at the completion of each lab period.

Presentations will be given by students at the beginning of lab periods. Each student must pick an individual species from the Species List and give a 5 minute presentation on its taxonomy, special physiology, ecology, range, conservation management issues, and techniques used to study these mammals.

The Scavenger Hunt will be completed by students over the course of the semester. The objective for this scavenger hunt is for each student to find evidence of mammals in the field and use that evidence to accurately identify the species in question.

Quizzes will be given at the beginning of the lab period. Quizzes will cover material from the previous class's lecture, the species list covering the associated material from that class, specimens covered in the class, and other materials posted to Canvas.

Midterm Practical Exams will only cover material from that unit with the Final Practical Exam being divided into two sections, one covering the unit leading up to it and one cumulatively covering all of the material from the entire class. Material that may be covered on exams includes information from lectures, the species list, specimens from class, and other materials posted to Canvas.

Lab schedule

This schedule is tentative and is subject to change on short notice.

Date	Lab Topic	Assignments
Aug. 30	Syllabus; Skeletal Anatomy	Worksheet 1
Sept. 6	Tracking	Quiz 1; Worksheet 2
Sept. 13	<i>Field Trip:</i> Game Cameras	
Sept. 20	Monotremata, Marsupialia, Xenarthra, Afrotheria	Worksheet 3
Sept. 27	Practical; Eulipotyphla, Chiroptera, Artiodactyla	
Oct. 4	Eulipotyphla, Chiroptera, Artiodactyla	Worksheet 4
Oct. 11	<i>Field Trip:</i> Radio Telemetry	
Oct. 18	Perrisodactyla, Pholidota, Carnivora	Quiz 2; Worksheet 5
Oct. 25	<i>Lab Work:</i> Data Analysis	Data Entry; Worksheet 6
Nov. 1	Practical; <i>Lab Work:</i> Data Analysis	
Nov. 8	<i>Field Trip:</i> Ethology	Worksheet 7
Nov. 15	<i>Lab Work:</i> Dissections	Worksheet 8
Nov. 22	Primates, Lagomorpha, Rodentia	Quiz 3; Worksheet 9
Nov. 29	NO CLASS – Thanksgiving	
Dec. 6	Primates, Lagamorpha, Rodentia	Quiz 4; Worksheet 10
Dec. 13	Final Practical	