BIOL 385 LAB – VERTEBRATE BIOLOGY

Territorial acknowledgement: The University of Regina is situated on the territories of the nêhiyawak, Anihšināpēk, Dakota, Lakota, and Nakoda, and the homeland of the Métis/Michif Nation. The Regina campus is on Treaty 4 lands, and Saskatoon classes are on Treaty 6 lands.

Lab Teaching Assistant: Ms. April DeJong
Lab Email address: BIOL385@uregina.ca

*** Many of the lab videos and photos were taken by J. McEwen as part of a co-op work term, and the lab handouts improved by feedback from N. Gill, I. Khan, and A. Sich; this lab would not be possible without the work all these students put into creating and improving those materials. ***

Labs: The first lab will be January 15th. It is a weekly lab, taking place each Thursday from 2:30 PM to 5:15 PM in LB 425. Attendance is required.

Office hours: Please email to set up an appointment. All lab-related emails should be sent to BIOL385@uregina.ca. Only emails sent to this account will receive a response; **do not email or send messages through UR Courses**. The 385 email account will be checked **once** a day on weekdays, and never on weekends, or holidays.

Course description: The anatomy, evolution, taxonomy, distribution, phylogeny and fossil history of vertebrate animals. Laboratories will involve dissections to illustrate diversity of body form and function.
Prerequisite: BIOL 275

Learning outcomes:

1. Improve animal dissection skills
2. Follow instructions to locate key organs, blood vessels, and structures
3. Describe evolutionary changes as reflected in vertebrate specimens
4. Compare and contrast respiration, digestion, reproduction, etc. of animals
5. Identify and describe the function of structures in preserved tissue, bone, or from images (photos or diagrams)

Lab materials: This lab provides all lab handouts and associated learning materials on UR Courses. Dissection tools and disposable gloves will be provided. Please note that any information provided in the BIOL 385 lab section of UR Courses (links, videos, lab handouts) and during lab time is examinable in the lab midterm and final, and correct spelling is required to earn full marks.

Additional requirements: You are required to have a printed, paper copy of the lab handout with you in lab, and bring safety glasses and a lab coat to wear. For those of you who wear prescription glasses, safety glasses that fit over those are required. Each instance of failing to bring one or more of these items to an in-person lab will result in a penalty to your participation grade.

*Dissecting preserved animals is smelly. A face mask (cloth or disposable) does help. I recommend you not wear your best clothes to lab.

Late assignments/missed exam policy: If you are going to miss the lab midterm or final, contact the Instructor at BIOL385@uregina.ca as soon as possible before the test to see about the possibility of a make-up exam. All tests/exams must be completed to earn a grade in the lab; they are required components of the lab.

Attendance policy: Attendance in labs is expected; however, attendance at the review sessions is optional (although highly recommended). Each lab missed earns a penalty to your participation grade, as does each instance of showing up late. Disrespectful behaviour can lead to your removal from the lab session; repeated instances of such behaviour can lead to you not being permitted to sit the lab exam(s), resulting in a grade of 0 for the lab.

Phone use: You are not permitted to use your cell phones or other electronic devices during lab. If you have a photo-worthy dissection, the TA will photograph the specimen and share that image with the entire lab through UR Courses. Keep your phones and electronic devices silenced and stowed in your backpack or elsewhere; your focus is to be on the dissections. If you are seen using your phone, it will negatively impact your participation grade. Repeated use may result in you not being able to write the lab exam(s).

Grading

The lab is worth 35% of your total class grade.

Safety quiz (at the beginning of Lab 2)	2%
Participation (being on time, having all materials, no cell phone use, collegiality, etc.)	5%
Skull work with the public	3%
Midterm lab exam	10%
Lab final exam (cumulative)	15%

Academic integrity: Academic integrity requires students be honest. Assignments and exams are to help students learn; grades show how fully this goal is attained. Thus, all work and grades should result from a student's own understanding and effort.

Acts of academic misconduct violate academic integrity, and are considered serious offences by the University. Examples include, but are not limited to, cheating on tests or exams, plagiarizing, copying from others, falsifying lab results, etc. For this lab, the use of Artificial Intelligence for assignments, email communication, etc. is not allowed. Instances of academic

misconduct will be reported to the Associate Dean, Student Affairs for investigation. Full details are provided in the Undergraduate Academic Calendar. The University also has an Academic Integrity Hub for understanding what Academic Integrity is, and the processes involved in being reported for academic misconduct. Students are encouraged to understand your obligations as a student, as well as your rights.

Accommodations: The Centre for Student Accessibility upholds the University's commitment to a diverse and inclusive learning environment by providing services and supports for students based on disability, religion, family status, and gender identity. Students who require these services are encouraged to contact the Centre for Student Accessibility to discuss the possibility of academic accommodations and other supports as early as possible. For further information, please email accessibility@uregina.ca.

Lab schedule: all dates and topics are subject to change, as necessitated by illness, closures, or other unforeseen circumstances.

Week of	Topic	Items of note
January 15th	Lab 1: Cyclostomata	Jan. 15th – first day of lab
January 22nd	Lab 2: Chrondrichthyes	Safety quiz at start of lab
January 29th	Lab 3: Actinopterygii	
February 5th	Lab 4 – Skulls and mandibles	This will take place in the Regina room of the Archer Library
February 12th	Open review time	Attendance is optional, but recommended
February 19th	Reading week – no classes/labs	
February 26th	Lab midterm**	Timed station exam
March 5th	Lab 5: Amphibia	
March 12th	Presentations	
March 19th	Lab 6: Aves	
March 26th	Lab 7: Mammalia	
April 2nd	Open review time	Attendance is optional, but recommended
April 9th	Lab final exam (cumulative exam)**	Timed station exam

** if something arises that requires us be online, the exam will be delivered as a timed, closed-book exam delivered on UR Courses.