## Biology and Conservation of Mammals

## ESRM 453 – Spring 2023

*Instructor:* **Laura Prugh** (she/her) [lprugh@uw.edu](mailto:lprugh@uw.edu)

*Office hours:* 10:30-11:30 Th, WFS 204

*Lectures:* 12:30-1:50 T Th, MEB 237

*Textbook:* Feldhamer, G.A. 2020. Mammalogy: Adaptation, Diversity, Ecology. 5th edition. Johns Hopkins University Press. ISBN-10 : 1421436523

## Course Description

This course covers the diversity and life history of mammals, with a focus on their ecology, evolutionary relationships, distribution, and conservation. There are 2 1.5-hour lectures per week, which will consist of interactive PowerPoint lectures (using Poll Everywhere), video clips, discussions, and short daily quizzes. Students will complete a term project. This is a writing intensive (W) course.

## Learning Objectives

## The purpose of the course is to provide an in-depth understanding of the basic biology, evolution, ecology, and conservation of mammals. Upon completion of the course, students should have acquired key knowledge and skills needed to pursue graduate-level research or a management career in wildlife conservation. Specific learning objectives include the following:

## Identify all the orders and selected families of mammals and understand the phylogenetic (evolutionary) relationships among them.

## Appreciate and discuss the morphological, physiological, and behavioral diversity of mammals in Washington and throughout the world.

1. Understand major threats facing mammals and conservation actions being taken through select case studies.
2. Improve written communication skills and contribute to science by writing a mammalian species account for publication on the Animal Diversity Web.

## Performance will be evaluated on the basis of exams, daily lecture quizzes, participation in class discussions, and a term project.

**Readings**

This course will require extensive reading. Readings from your textbook will greatly assist you in learning the lecture material and studying for exams. You will also be assigned readings for class discussions. It is strongly recommended that you use the 5th edition of the textbook, because major taxonomic revisions occurred between the 4th and 5th editions.

## NOTES: HAVE EXAM 2 DURING FINALS WEEK

-**REDUCE SOME “MAMMALOGY” ANATOMICAL DETAIL, INCREASE RESEARCH/CONSERVATION CONTENT**

## Course Schedule



## Learning Format

## This course will be taught 100% in person.

## Poll Everywhere

Poll Everywhere software will be used during lectures to engage students. Poll Everywhere is a free application that will connect to Canvas through your mobile device. You may use Poll Everywhere on a computer, but most students find the mobile app to work best. **Be sure to download the app onto your mobile device BEFORE the first lecture and set up your Poll Everywhere account USING YOUR UW EMAIL (NOT a different email address), or else you will not receive credit for the quiz!** See here for more information: <https://www.polleverywhere.com/>

## Term Project

## Each student will prepare a new Species Account for the Animal Diversity Web. This will be discussed further in lecture, but you should visit the Animal Diversity Web at:

## <http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/index.html>

## Go to "Mammals," then "Classification," then browse by Order. Successful completion of the term project will require the following steps:

## You must submit your species for approval along with a minimum of 3 peer-reviewed publications about your selected species by Thursday, April 13.

## A rough draft must be turned in for review by Thursday, May 11 via Canvas. Note: do not copy/paste material from your sources. *Plagiarism will result in a 0 mark.* SimCheck will be used to check your draft against the Internet for plagiarism.

## A final species account addressing all feedback is due Sunday, June 4 via the ADW website.

## Accounts will then be considered for online publication by ADW staff. The decision to publish your account will occur after grades are due and will not be a factor in your grade determination. Revisions requested by ADW will be voluntary on your part. Academics and members of the general public will benefit from your contributions. This is the internet at its best!

**Exams**

There are 2 exams and no final exam in this class. Exams are non-cumulative and will be administered in person during the normal class period (see course schedule for dates). The format will be a mixture of matching, true/false, multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer, and long answer.

**Class Discussions**

We will discuss case studies of current conservation issues during 4 lecture periods (see schedule above). The first discussion (trophy hunting) will be formatted as a debate; more details will be provided in lecture. You will need to prepare for discussions by completing any assigned readings. Prior to each class discussion, you will be given ~10 minutes to write down your thoughts about the discussion topic based on your interpretation of the readings. Your grade for class debates/discussions (50 points) will reflect the quality of your written and oral participation. High marks will be given for thoughtful oral comments and questions, listening and engaging respectfully with classmates, insightful and genuine written reflections. Low marks will be given for lack of engagement, failing to demonstrate familiarity with the assigned reading material, or dominating the conversation.

## Community Norms

## This is a relatively small class that is intended to be interactive in nature. Thus, you should feel free to ask questions during lecture—interruptions (to ask questions) are welcome and encouraged! We would like to create a learning environment that supports a diversity of thoughts, perspectives and experiences, and honors everyone’s backgrounds and identities. To help accomplish this goal, we will attempt to foster a culture in which each class member is able to respect and hear each other. We ask that everyone be considerate of other’s views and mindful of your own. Uncomfortable situations may arise in class despite the best intentions of your colleagues and instructor. If this occurs, please discuss the situation with your instructor or, if you prefer, your instructor can direct you to resources within our School or University.

## Course Grading

Exam I 150 points

Exam II 150 points

Lecture mini-quizzes 60 points

Written reflections (4x10pts) 40 points

Class discussions (4x10pts) 40 points

Species Approval 5 points

Term project rough draft 45 points

Final species account 150 points

# **Total: 640 points**

Grades will be converted from a percentage of total points earned in the class to a 4.0 scale as follows:

A = 3.5-4.0, 90-100% (540-600 pts)

B = 2.5-3.4, 80-89% (480-539 pts)

C = 1.5-2.4, 70-79% (420-479 pts)

D = 0.7-1.4, 60-69% (360-419 pts)

F = 0, < 60% (<360 pts)

**Note:** 60% -> 0.7 = the lowest passing grade

59% or lower = academic failure (no credit earned)

For more information on UW Grading system, you can visit: <http://www.washington.edu/students/gencat/front/Grading_Sys.html>

**Late Policy**

Assignments are due before midnight (11:59PM) the day they are due unless otherwise noted. You are strongly advised **not** to wait until the last minute to upload assignments, because Canvas can have problems if everyone tries to submit at the same time. Assignments turned in late will receive a 10% reduction in points PER DAY late, starting immediately after the assignment is due. For example, if the assignment is due at 11:59PM on Nov 13 and it is turned in at 12:00AM on Nov 14, 10% would be deducted, and an additional 10% deducted for each 24-hour period thereafter. Short lecture quizzes administered via Canvas MUST be taken before the quiz closes (11:59PM the day of lecture). These quizzes cannot be taken late unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor.

**Attendance Policy**

## Students will not receive credit for missed lecture quizzes, exams, or discussions if they are missed without prior notification AND approval. If you have a valid reason for missing class (e.g., illness), you must email Dr. Prugh PRIOR to your absence to make arrangements for make-up assignments. If you email Dr. Prugh *after* you miss class, your absence will not be excused and you will not be able to make up the missed work, even if the reason for the absence was valid.

## Academic Integrity

Plagiarism, cheating, and other misconduct are serious violations of your contract as a student. We expect that you will know and follow the University's policies on cheating and plagiarism. Any suspected cases of academic misconduct will be handled according to University regulations. More information, including definitions and examples, can be found at: <http://depts.washington.edu/grading/pdf/AcademicResponsibility.pdf>

### PLEASE READ: Notice to Students - Use of Plagiarism Detection Software

## SimCheck is an educational tool that helps prevent or identify plagiarism by comparing each student’s submitted work to the entire Internet and to other students’ submissions from current and prior years. We will use SimCheck for written assignments to ensure material was not copied. Cases in which a student submits material that appears to have been plagiarized will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct, which could result in a 0 grade or worse. The SimCheck Report will indicate the amount of matching text between your submission and other sources. A match of 10% or less is typical and can be expected, but matches above this level can indicate problematic content. I strongly recommend that you view your SimCheck Report prior to submission! If your report indicates >10% match, make sure to carefully read your report, and revise and resubmit your paper if needed.

## Disability Accommodations

To request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact Disability Resources for Students, 011 Mary Gates, (206)543-8924 (V/TTY), <http://depts.washington.edu/uwdrs/>. If you require academic accommodations, please coordinate with DRS and/or present your letter from DRS to the instructor so we can discuss the accommodations needed for this class.

## Religious Accommodations

Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW’s policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at [Religious Accommodations Policy](https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/). Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the [Religious Accommodations Request form](https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/).