BIOL 2251.002: Biodiversity and Conservation of Animals (Honors)

FALL 2025 – Mon/Wed/Fri 11:00 – 11:50 am – CURY 204

Professor: Dr. Ana Paula Hoeinghaus

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Office: LSC A 128A
Student hours: Mondays 1 – 3 pm or by appointment

Learning objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, you will understand principles of form, function, evolution, biogeography, and ecology of animals, as well as modern topics related to the theory and practice of conservation of animal diversity.

Recommended text: Hickman, C., Larry Roberts, L., Keen, S., Larson, L. and Eisenhour, D. Animal Diversity, 8th or 9th edition.

Canvas: Check for course material on Canvas regularly. It will contain updates to the syllabus, online quizzes, readings, and other materials used in class. Supplemental resources will be provided for some of the course content. Students are responsible for checking for announcements. I recommend that you select notifications 'on' in your Canvas settings.

Assessment: Performance in the course will be assessed through a combination of exams, assignments and quizzes.

Exams: There will be 4 exams for this course. All exams are worth 100 points for a total of 400 points. **No exam grade will be dropped**. Exams may include information from the lectures, textbook, videos, and articles discussed in class. Final exam is not comprehensive, but it will include material covered after the third exam and information from Honors' presentations at the end of the semester. Exams are scheduled for the following days:

Exam 1: Friday, September 12th at 11 am
Exam 2: Friday, October 3rd at 11 am
Exam 3: Monday, November 3rd at 11 am
Final exam: Monday, December 8th [Final exams week] at 10:30 am

Make-up exams: Exams are to be taken when scheduled. Students will not be allowed to take any exam on a date or time other than scheduled *unless you have a **verifiable medical excuse** or **official UNT activity***. The time and place for make-up exams will be determined by the instructor. Proper documentation should be **provided before scheduling your make-up exam**. If students miss the exam and/or make-up exam, a grade of zero (0) will be assigned for that examination.

Reading Assignments (RA): There will be reading questions that will guide you through the required reading, focusing your attention on important aspects of the articles. Answers to reading questions must be submitted on Canvas by the designated due date, and **no late submissions will be accepted**. All assignments will be assessed using the Turn-it-in software that quantifies similarity and overlap of text with previously published documents, website content, as well as assignments and other documents in the software's database. This information is used to assess for potential plagiarism, so make sure the text you submit is your own. Students with a Turn-it-in similarity score of **50% or more will receive a grade of zero. AI generated assignments will also receive a zero**. Assignments must have a minimum of 600 words to be considered for full credit. There will be four reading assignments and each is worth 25 points. The **lowest assignment grade will be dropped**, for a total of 75 points.

Review Quizzes (RQ): There will be 4 review quizzes to be completed on Canvas before each exam. Each is worth 25 points. **The lowest quiz grade will be dropped** for a total of 75 points. You are allowed to use course materials when taking the quizzes, this includes your textbook and your handwritten notes. You should not ask other students for the answers. There will be no make-up quizzes, regardless of the reason.

Weekly Quizzes (WQ): There will be 14 quizzes to be completed on Canvas. Each is worth 5 points. **The lowest 4 quiz grades will be dropped** for a total of 50 points. You should not ask other students for the answers. There will be no make-up quizzes, regardless of the reason. Deadlines for weekly quizzes are listed on the lecture schedule.

IUCN Red List Assignment: There will be one writing assignment worth up to 100 points that must be submitted on Canvas by the designated due date. The goal of this assignment is for you to familiarize yourself with the IUCN Red List and its significance in conservation efforts. Assignments must have a minimum of 2000 words to be considered for full credit. See detailed instructions for this assignment posted on Canvas. Students with a Turn-it-in similarity score of **50% or more will receive a grade of zero. AI generated assignments will also receive a zero. No late submissions will be accepted.**

- Honors College Credit: Honors students have specific instructions to complete the written assignment (see detailed Honors instructions posted on Canvas) and are required to prepare and give a 3-minute presentation on the last days of class (December 1st and 3rd). This presentation should summarize the key points for two of the five species selected for the assignment (one species must be an invertebrate). Honors credit will be granted based not only on the quality of the presentation - assessed using a grading rubric available on Canvas - but also on the student's ability to follow the specific instructions and expectations outlined for Honors' written assignment. Students should decide if they will give the presentation and inform the instructor by November 10 via email. Finalized presentations should be submitted via email in a PowerPoint format to the instructor by November 15th.

Course grades: The total possible points for this course is 700. Grades will be assigned according to the point system listed below

Grade	Total points
A	627 and above
B	557 to 626
C	487 to 556
D	418 to 486
F	417 and below

Canvas is not set to calculate your course average. It is your responsibility to periodically check your scores and bring any discrepancies to the attention of your instructor. Do not leave it for the end of the semester.

iClicker: iClicker will be used to highlight main concepts and terminology, and points earned will be applied to total points as bonus points (maximum of 10 points). Each student must be registered for iClicker and have a device (computer, smartphone or tablet) for polling responses for this course. You will create an account with iClicker, enter your **EUID (your Canvas login ID)** in the Student ID (optional) space, select University of North Texas as your institution, and search for this course which is listed as follows: **FL25 BIOL 2251 – Hoeinghaus**. Add this course to your iClicker course list. Click on the course and JOIN when we are in session. Connecting via Wi-Fi in UNT classrooms is highly recommended. You **may not make-up missed questions**, regardless of whether you have forgotten to bring a response device, you are late to class, you have no connection, or you miss class. Class participation will be based on the iClicker questions in class. Submitting answers to the iClicker questions from somewhere else other than the classroom **will be considered academic dishonesty** and a report will be filed with the Office of Academic Integrity.

Academic integrity: Any student found cheating on any exam will receive a zero (0) for that exam and may face other disciplinary action(s). Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: 1) releasing exam content during or after you have taken an exam, 2) copying any material from another student, or from another source such as the internet, that is submitted for grading, 3) plagiarism, including use of internet material without proper citation, and 4) use of cell phones or other electronics to obtain outside information during an exam. I will evaluate any suspected cases of academic dishonesty on a case by case basis. Reports of academic dishonesty will be filed with the Office of Academic Integrity and become a part of the student's permanent academic record. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. Visit University of North Texas' Student Academic Integrity Policy: https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003 to obtain additional information.

Etiquette: We need to work together to ensure a high-quality teaching and learning environment. Disruptive and inconsiderate activities negatively affect the entire class and include talking, coming in late, leaving class for non-essential reasons, using cell phones, tablets or computers for reasons not related to class, and general inattentive behavior.

Attendance: You are strongly advised to **attend all lectures**. I also suggest that you read the assigned chapters and other course materials prior to lecture so that you have context for the lecture. It is difficult to process all the information presented in lectures unless you get it "first hand" and have some frame of reference. I cannot stress enough the importance of attending lectures, asking questions and taking notes during class. In general, students who do not attend lectures do poorly in the course. Attendance will be based on iClicker data. If the iClicker system is not working for you, please sign the attendance sheet that I bring to class. Please take time to read the material on the "Succeed at UNT" website: www.succeed.unt.edu.

Incomplete: An incomplete (I) grade is given only during the last one-fourth of a semester and only if a student is: (1) passing the course; (2) has a justifiable reason why the class cannot be completed on schedule; and (3) arranges with the instructor to finish the course at a later date. All work must be completed within the time specified by the instructor (not to exceed one year after taking the course). An incomplete may be requested starting Nov 8th.

Student hours: I am available on Mondays from 1 to 3 pm. Please feel free to contact me to schedule an appointment if those times do not work for you. Please reach out if you have any difficulties or need further explanation of the material. Take advantage of student hours - I am here to help you learn. If you would like to review an exam, you have until the week before of the subsequent exam to do so. Please email me to schedule an appointment to review your exam.

ADA Policy: The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to me to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at http://www.unt.edu/oda. You may also contact them by phone at (940) 565-4323.

Academic Support & Student Services: UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- Student Health and Wellness Center (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center)
- Counseling and Testing Services (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
- UNT Care Team (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care)
- UNT Psychiatric Services (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry)
- Individual Counseling (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling)

Additional Student Support Services

- Registrar (https://registrar.unt.edu/registration)
- Financial Aid (https://financialaid.unt.edu/)
- Student Legal Services (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services)
- Career Center (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center)
- Counseling and Testing Services (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
- UNT Food Pantry (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry)

Key dates to add to your calendar:

September 9 – 11:59 PM Deadline for RA 1
September 11 – 11:59 PM Deadline for Review Quiz 1
September 12 - Exam 1

September 30 – 11:59 PM Deadline for RA 2
October 2 – 11:59 PM Deadline for Review Quiz 2
October 3 - Exam 2

October 30 – 11:59 PM Deadline for RA 3
November 2 – 11:59 PM Deadline for Review Quiz 3
November 3 - Exam 3

November 10 – 11:59 PM Deadline for IUCN Red List Assignment
& to inform the instructor by email if student is giving the presentation

November 15 – 11:59 PM Deadline to submit presentations to instructor
(by email)

November 20 – 11:59 PM Deadline for RA 4

December 1 and 3 – Honors presentations

December 3 – 11:59 PM Deadline for Review Quiz 4
(note that the deadline of the RQ 4 is **not** the day before the final)
December 8 - Exam 4 (Final exam)

TENTATIVE LECTURE SCHEDULE

This schedule is tentative and subject to change. Last day to drop a course or all courses with a grade of W – Nov 7

Week	*Day*	*Date*	*Topics*	*Chapter*
1	Mon	8/18	Introduction and Syllabus	
	Wed	8/20	Exploring Animal Diversity & Origin of Animals	3
	Fri	8/22	Cambrian Explosion, Other Explosions and Extinctions (WQ 1 due)	1 (1.4, 1.6, 1.7)
2	Mon	8/25	Cambrian Explosion, Other Explosions and Extinctions (cont.)	1 (1.4, 1.6, 1.7)
	Wed	8/27	Animal Complexity, Body Plans, and Phylogeny	3
	Fri	8/29	Animal Complexity, Body Plans, and Phylogeny (cont.) (WQ 2 due)	3
3	Mon	9/1	**No class: Labor Day**	
	Wed	9/3	Distribution of Species	3
	Fri	9/5	The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (WQ 3 due)	
4	Mon	9/8	Sponges	6
	Wed	9/10	Sponges	6
	Fri	9/12	**Exam 1**	
5	Mon	9/15	Cnidarians & Ctenophora	7
	Wed	9/17	Cnidarians & Ctenophora (cont.)	7
	Fri	9/19	Molluscs (WQ 4 due)	10
6	Mon	9/22	Molluscs (cont.)	10
	Wed	9/24	Annelids	11
	Fri	9/26	Arthropods (WQ 5 due)	13
7	Mon	9/29	Arthropods (cont.)	13
	Wed	10/1	Arthropods (cont.)	13
	Fri	10/3	**Exam 2**	
8	Mon	10/6	Echinoderms & Hemichordates (WQ 6 due)	14
	Wed	10/8	Echinoderms & Hemichordates	14
	Fri	10/10	Chordates (WQ 7 due)	15
9	Mon	10/13	Fishes	16
	Wed	10/15	Fishes (cont.)	16
	Fri	10/17	Fishes (cont.) (WQ 8 due)	16
10	Mon	10/20	Early Tetrapods and Modern Amphibians	17
	Wed	10/22	Amphibians (cont.)	17
	Fri	10/24	Amniote Origins and Non-Avian Reptiles (WQ 9 due)	18
11	Mon	10/27	Non-Avian Reptiles (cont.)	18
	Wed	10/29	Birds	19
	Fri	10/31	Birds (WQ 10 due) - **Happy Halloween! Dress as your favorite animal!**	19
12	Mon	11/3	**Exam 3**	
	Wed	11/5	Mammals	20
	Fri	11/7	Mammals (cont.) (WQ 11 due)	20
13	Mon	11/10	Mammals (cont.)	20
	Wed	11/12	Patterns of Diversity and Island Theory	
	Fri	11/14	Patterns of Diversity and Island Theory (cont.) (WQ 12 due)	
14	Mon	11/17	Biodiversity Crisis and Conservation Biology	
	Wed	11/19	Biodiversity Crisis and Conservation Biology	
	Fri	11/21	Conservation Biology (cont.) & RA4 discussion (WQs 13 & 14 due)	
15	M/W/F	11/24-30	**No Class: Thanksgiving break**	
16	Mon	12/1	Honors IUCN Red List assignment presentations	
	Wed	12/3	Honors IUCN Red List assignment presentations	
	Fri	12/5	**No class: Reading day**	
17	Mon	12/8	**Final exam at 10:30 am**	