

Vertebrate Evolution SCB-165
 Vertebrate Life 9th edition by Pough, Janis and Heiser
 Benjamin Cummings/Pearson ISBN 9780321907134

Lecture Syllabus

Lecture	Topic	Chapter
1	The Diversity, Classification and Evolution of Vertebrates	1
2	Vertebrate Relationships and Basic Structure	2
3	Early Vertebrates: Jawless Vertebrates and the Origin of the Jawed Vertebrates	3
4	Living in Water	4
5	Radiation of the Chondrichthyes	5
6	The Major Radiation of Fishes	6
7	The Major Radiation of Fishes	6
8	Geography and Ecology of the Paleozoic Era	7
9	Living on Land	8
10	Origin and Radiation of Tetrapods	9
11	Salamanders, Anurans and Caecilians	10
12	Midterm Exam I Lectures 1-11	
13	Synapsids and sauropods: Two Approaches to Terrestrial Life	11
14	Synapsids and sauropods: Two Approaches to Terrestrial Life	11
15	Turtles	12
16	The Lepidosaurs: Tuatara, Lizards and Snakes	13
17	Ectothermy: A Low Cost Approach to Life	14
18	Geography and Ecology of the Mesozoic Era	15
19	Mesozoic Diapsids: Dinosaurs, Crocodylians, Birds and Others	16
20	Mesozoic Diapsids: Dinosaurs, Crocodylians, Birds and Others	16
21	Avian Specializations	17
22	Avian Specializations	17
23	Midterm Exam 2 Lectures 13-22	
24	The Synapsida and the Evolution of Mammals	18
25	The Synapsida and the Evolution of Mammals	18
26	Geography and Ecology of the Cenozoic Era	19
27	Mammalian Diversity and Characteristics	20
28	Mammalian Specializations	21
29	Mammalian Specializations	21
30	Endothermy: A High Energy Approach to Life	22
31	Body Size, Ecology, and Sociality of Mammals	23
32	Primate Evolution and the Emergence of Humans	24
33	Primate Evolution and the Emergence of Humans	24
34	The Impact of Humans on Other Species of Vertebrates	25
35	Oral Presentations	
36	Oral Presentations	

Final exam covering lectures 24-36 will be during Finals week

Policy on Academic Integrity.

Vertebrate Evolution (SCB-165) will be conducted in compliance with La Guardia Community College's Academic Integrity Policy.

If a student is suspected of academic misconduct or dishonesty (such as cheating, bribery or plagiarism) the instructor will complete the academic integrity complaint form. The following steps will then subsequently occur:

- The faculty member meets with the student charged with the violation; shows him/her the completed Complaint Form, which indicates the faculty member's sanction (either an "F" on the paper, quiz or exam involved: or an "F" in the course). The instructor asks the student to check one of the three options printed on the form. The student may select "I do not challenge the accusation and accept the sanctions" or "I challenge the accusation and wish for the matter to be referred to the Chief Adjudicator for further review" or "I do not wish to make any statement at this time and I am aware that the sanction will be upheld without further review for appeal after fifteen days of receipt of this notice".
- The form, with the evidence attached, is then signed by the student and by the faculty member and sent to the Chairperson of the department. The student should be advised that signing of the document is not considered an admission of guilt but only an understanding of the allegations and the possible sanctions filed against them.
- A copy of the form is given to the student and the faculty member retains a copy for his/her files.
- The Chairperson determines whether the matter has been resolved or not; checks the appropriate line on the complaint form; signs the form; files a copy, together with copies of the supporting evidence in the department's files; and sends a copy with the supporting evidence to the Academic Integrity Officer (AIO) in C-317.
- If the alleged violation is discovered after the class has met for the final time in the semester, the instructor notifies the student by e-mail and certified postal mail, requesting a meeting. If the student does not respond, that is so noted on the complaint form and the form with supporting documentation is sent to the department Chairperson, who also attempts to contact the student. If the student does not respond, the form and documents, including documentation of the attempts to contact the student are sent to the AIO.

- If the student checks, “I do not wish to make any statement at this time,” or if the student refuses to sign the form at all, or if the student refuses to meet with the professor, the complaint form and attached documents are filed in the department and are sent to the AIO, who calls the student to a meeting and then determines an appropriate course of action, as described above. In cases in which the student fails to appear at the required meeting within one week of notification, the faculty sanction shall apply without benefit of student appeal.
- The AIO functions in these processes as the representative of the Vice President of the Division of Student Affairs. The AIO promptly notifies the Chairperson of receipt of the complaint form, of the determination made by either the Academic Standing Committee or the Student-Faculty Disciplinary Committee and of the inclusion of the student’s name in the division’s data base of students who admit violations or who are determined to be guilty of violations. The AIO will review the data base to identify repeat offenders and to impose appropriate disciplinary sanctions.
- Finally, when the faculty sanction allows the student to complete work necessary for passing the course, the student is allowed to do so. When the faculty sanction is failure for the course and the student requests a hearing or chooses not to make a statement, the student remains in the course until the matter is resolved. If the matter is not resolved by the end of the term, the professor gives the student a grade that incorporates the proposed sanction, with the possibility of revision when the matter is resolved.

Grading Procedures and Criteria for Vertebrate Evolution

The final grade for Vertebrate Evolution is determined from the average of 3 lecture exams (@25% each), a final research Paper (15%) and an oral presentation (10%).

All lecture exams will be true or false and composed of 50 questions to be answered in one hour. Make up exams will be given as short answer/essay format.

Both the research paper and the oral presentation requires at least one visit to the fourth floor of the Natural History Museum. Students are required to submit their ticket stubs and photographs of reflecting their unique topic from their visit to the museum. The research paper and oral presentation topics must be unique to each other and to others in the class. See the assignment handout for specific details.

Final Grade Determination

92.5-100 = A	82.5-86.4 = B	72.5-76.4 = C	62.5-66.4 = D
89.5-92.4 = A-	79.5-82.4 = B-	69.5-72.4 = C-	59.5-62.4 = D-
86.5-89.4 = B+	76.5-79.4 = C+	66.5-69.4 = D+	0-59.4 = F

Attendance

Attendance is a requirement for success in this class and will be considered in the evaluation of student performance. Instructors are required to keep an official record of student attendance. The maximum number of unexcused absences is limited to 15% of the number of class hours. Absences are counted from the first day of class even if they are a result of late registration or change of program.

Classes will meet in accordance to the Academic Calendar which may be obtained from the College's web site. Classes may not be cancelled due to inclement weather. Check for announcements on the college's website or CUNYfirst.

Refer to the College Handbook for the rights and responsibilities of students which may be found on the college's web site.

The Grading Policy for these courses are noted above. Repeat, "R", grades are not given in this course and Incompletes, "IN", are issued only under very restricted circumstances. In order to receive an Incomplete, a student must be passing the course and be able to document why he/she is unable to complete the course work during the semester. Both the student and the instructor must complete and sign an Incomplete Form and list the exams that must be completed before a grade is issued. Students have six months to complete the missing exams; otherwise the incomplete is automatically converted to an F grade. An Incomplete does not provide a student with an opportunity to retake exams. All prior grades are retained and added into the calculation of the final grade. Note that the process for an incomplete must be initiated by the student.