

ZOO3713C – Functional Vertebrate Anatomy
Spring 2021 – All Sections

COURSE OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES

A thorough understanding of **vertebrate anatomy** is essential for appreciation of many fields of biology, including molecular/ cellular biology, paleontology, evolutionary development, biomechanics, sports therapy, medicine and veterinary medicine. This course presents a functional perspective of comparative vertebrate anatomy, taking advantage of both the diversity and conservation of morphological structure in the animal kingdom to increase appreciation for how form can dictate function of select organ systems and of the organism as a whole. Form is studied not only at the anatomical level but also at the cellular/ molecular level and the developmental level as these are the basic building blocks on which anatomy is molded. We will approach this course as a tour through the chordate lineage, from tunicates to mammals.

Three-weekly lectures and the once-weekly laboratories are intended to be primarily coordinated such that the laboratory work solidifies and expands upon what is discussed in the lectures and reinforces anatomical terminology, structure and form. The systems covered include most of the major components of the vertebrate body and the understanding of these systems is achieved by lectures, dissection, examinations of prepared tissues, histological studies and practical work.

We will be supplementing practical (labs) teaching of anatomy with the use of Micro-CT (Computed Tomography) scanned vertebrates, 3D segmentation, and 'SketchFab' hosted content (in collaboration with Dr. David Blackburn; Florida Museum of Natural History), with open access to all students of Functional Vertebrate Anatomy.

Course requirements: Attendance to labs will be mandatory and attendance to lectures is expected. Components of the grade will be reflected in this. You will be expected to participate in exams (both lecture and lab), quizzes, and an essay. You will do the best on all of these if you participate!

How this will work this semester: Lectures will be given over Zoom synchronously during the scheduled time (Period 6 Monday, Wednesday, and Friday) but will be recorded and posted online. I recommend that you attend class- it will allow you to participate in discussion, ask questions, and aid in your learning! Labs will be held in person for the foreseeable future, although there is a significant chance of labs being moved online. Students who attend lab in-person MUST meet health requirements (masks, social distancing, and up-to-date COVID tests) in order to avoid penalties.

INSTRUCTORS

Lecturer

Connie Rich, PhD, office hours Mondays 9-10 and Thursdays 11-12 on Zoom. Office hours will be extended leading up to each exam. *Contact is by Canvas mail.*

Teaching Assistants

Graduate TAs (labs): Dan Paluh (dpaluh@ufl.edu), Maria Vallejo (maria.vallejo@ufl.edu), Scott Cinel (cinell@ufl.edu)

GRADING

Exam 1	200
Exam 2	200
Exam 3	200
Short Essay	100
In class response questions	100
Lab Exams	200
Lab Quizzes	80
<u>Lab Dissection Participation</u>	<u>20</u>
Total	1100

Exams will be held on Honorlock- student guidance can be found [here](#).

Classroom Response System: We will be using TopHat ([join code 320694](#)), where questions will be available from 8am until 11:59pm on the day of lecture. The total number of in class response questions will not be known until the end of the course, and your total clicker points earned will be calculated as a percentage of 100 points. You can drop 1/4th of your incorrect and missing response questions. *It is YOUR responsibility to budget these for illnesses, post-graduate school interviews, university sanctioned events, religious holidays, sleeping-in, dead batteries, etc...*

Extra Credit: At the discretion of the instructor, up to 2% of extra credit will be available. However, any other requests for extra credit will not be accepted and will be met with annoyance.

Grading scale

low	high	letter
90.00	100.00	A
85.00	89.99	B+
80.00	84.99	B
75.00	79.99	C+
70.00	74.99	C
65.00	69.99	D+
61.00	64.99	D
0	60.99	E

At the end of the course, grade ranges may or may not be curved up, but they will not be curved down. For example, if you earn 80.00% of all possible points then you guaranteed a B grade.

However, once final grades are set, cut-offs will be strictly enforced, i.e. an 89.99 is a B+ and will not rounded up to an A.

REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED COURSE MATERIALS

Required text (lecture): Vertebrates: Comparative Anatomy, Function, Evolution 7/8th Edition. Kardong, K. Publisher: McGraw Hill

Required text (lab): Kardong, K.V. and Zalisko, E.J. 2014. Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy – A laboratory dissection guide 7th Edition (or earlier editions).

Required equipment: Blunt forceps, blunt probe, sharp probe, scissors, scalpel, gloves (provided)

Optional equipment: Lab coats, apron, colored pencils

We will heavily use the Top Hat Monocle instant response system in class to help stimulate understanding and discussions. Details on the system and how to register are at: <https://tophat.com/> ([join code 320694](#)).

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE - LECTURE

Approx. Week	#	Topics	Reading
1/11	1	Introduction; Evolution; Integumentary Systems	Chap. 1, 2, 3
1/18	2	Integumentary Systems; Development I	Chap. 6, 4
1/25	3	Cranial and Axial Skeleton; Development II	Chap. 4, 5
2/1	4	Evo Devo; Connective Tissue; Appendicular Skeleton	Chap. 7, 8, 9
2/8	5	Evolution of limbs; Review; Exam	
2/15	6	Muscles and Muscle Evolution	Chap. 10
2/22	7	Digestive System	Chap. 17
3/1	8	Respiratory and Circulatory Systems	Chap. 18, 19
3/8	9	Circulatory System; Excretory System and Osmoregulation	Chap. 19, 20
3/15	10	Review; Exam; Reproduction	Chap. 21
3/22	11	Writing week!	
3/29	12	Reproduction and Endocrine Systems	Chap. 21, 13, 15
4/5	13	Nervous System	Chap. 13
4/12	14	Nervous System, Evolution; Regeneration	Chap. 12, 13, 14
4/19	15	Review; Exam	

Tentative exam dates: Exam 1- 2/12; Exam 2- 3/17; Exam 3- 4/21(all non-cumulative).

LABS

Before your lab session, handouts and readings will be made available to aid you in the dissections. Pre-lab quizzes will be conducted in Canvas quizzes, and you will complete 2 lab exams. As labs will be held in person, you will be expected to observe all university guidelines, including but not limited to: masks at all times, distancing of at least 6 feet from all other individuals, up-to-date COVID tests (currently in-person students will be tested at least every 2 weeks), and staying home if you are sick. There will be absolutely NO exceptions. If students come into lab who are not cleared to be on campus or who fail to abide by health and safety measures set out by the CDC and UF, students will leave the lab and not receive points for all corresponding assignments.

SUGGESTED STUDY METHODS

Come to class and participate

There is tremendous variation in how people learn and in the foundation they have upon entering this course. However, I work very hard to make sure that you have the knowledge and the study techniques to do well in this course. I show you how to work, but you do have to put in the work. Participation is the key here- come to class, engage, and participate.

Participate in discussion boards and chats

There are around 60 other students in the class trying to learn the same material. Post and answer general questions and comments in the chat related to daily lectures and clicker questions. Use the discussion boards to ask and answer questions about the study questions as you prepare for exams. I also encourage you to find study groups in the class. Teaching other students is a great way to make sure you know the material. *These are read by all students and instructors, so make sure your comments are appropriate and respectful.*

If you do not understand- ask!!

I will be holding office hours that I encourage you to attend with any questions- about course content, about technical things, about life. Please come by if you are having any trouble at all.

How much time should I be spending?

The minimum full-time work week in the US is 40 h. Most professionals work far more hours (e.g., 55-70), but let's use 40 h/week as a minimum. If you are taking a heavy 16 credit hours, then this course is 1/4 of your course load. So, that's $1/4 \times 40 \text{ h} = 10 \text{ h}$ you should spend on this course. $10 - 3 \text{ h lecture} - 3 \text{ h lab} = 4 \text{ h}$ you should spend outside of class each week or about **1 h per day for 4 days per week**. If you are spending more time than this, please talk to me about how to optimize your study techniques. If you are spending less time than this, you may struggle to learn the material well enough to do well on exams. I encourage you to look at this as "1 hour per day" throughout the semester- cramming will not be your friend here.

OTHER POLICIES

Fun for Spring 2021...

Our class sessions [and office hours] will be audio-visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. [These recordings will only be posted through Canvas.] Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate verbally are agreeing to have their voices recorded.

If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared.

As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

Communication with Dr. Rich

Written communication should be made in Canvas (e.g., mail and announcements) or messenger pigeon unless there is an emergency. If a student fails to check Canvas, the instructor is not responsible for missed information. Grades will only be made available in person or via Canvas. If you email Dr. Rich directly, please include your course code.

Academic Honesty

All students are expected to hold themselves to a high standard of academic honesty.

Of course, you must work alone on all exam questions. Cheating will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic fail and reporting to the Dean of Students' Office Student Conduct Committee.

If you witness any instances of academic dishonesty in this class, please notify the instructor or contact the Student Honor Court (392-1631) or Cheating Hotline (392-6999). For additional information on Academic Honesty, please refer to the University of Florida Academic Honesty Guidelines at:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.html>.

In class Top Hat response questions

TopHat questions will be available from about 8am until 11:59pm the day of class. I recommend that you complete these as we go through them in class. Please keep in perspective that there will likely be as many as 100 questions so missing any single question due to forgetfulness or misunderstanding only affects about 0.14 percentage points of your final grade. An incorrect response is worth 0.25 points, and a missing response is worth 0.0 points. You can drop 1/4th of your missed or incorrect response questions. *It is YOUR responsibility to budget these for illnesses, post-graduate school interviews, university sanctioned events, religious holidays, sleeping-in, dead batteries, etc...*

Grading discrepancies

Concerns regarding the accuracy of graded assignments (discussions and lecture) will only be taken into consideration if the respective instructor has been notified **within 3 working days** after the assignment grade is posted.

Attendance and Absences

If you must miss an exam due to an allowable scheduled absence (for example, to participate in a sanctioned university function), you must notify the instructor as soon as the event is scheduled or during the first week of classes. If you miss an exam or discussion due to an allowable but unscheduled absence (e.g., illness), you must provide a signed note from your primary care provider indicating that you were *unable to take the exam* on the day(s) in question to the Dean of Students' Office; it is not sufficient for the note to simply indicate that you were seen in a clinic on a given day.

Students with Special Needs

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) by visiting the [Get Started page](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs as early as possible in the semester. It is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor of any accommodation requests. I am happy to help throughout the semester and will work to accommodate as much as possible.

UF counseling Services

Resources are available on-campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals. The resources include: 1) UF Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Rd, 392-1575, psychological and psychiatric services. 2) Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career and job search services. Many students experience test anxiety and other stress related problems. "A Self Help Guide for Students" is available through the Counseling Center (301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575) and at their web site: <http://www.counsel.ufl.edu/>.

Your well-being is important to the University of Florida and to me. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1. Please remember they are there for you.

A final note...

Well done on making it through the syllabus! You're off to a great start! As a final thought, I am here for you guys and want you all to do well in this class. My aim is to arm you with knowledge, study techniques, and critical thinking skills for wherever you go from here. So, if you are unhappy or stressed or overwhelmed or just needing some extra support, please come and talk to me or talk to someone at UF's Counseling and Wellness Center. Our job is to teach you, support you, and help you grow, and without you we couldn't do what we love.

