

# BIOL 224H, Fall Semester (2020)

## Honors Animal Biology and Diversity

All information pertaining to this course at this website, including course policies, is subject to being changed until the first day of the semester. Check the "last modified date" at the bottom of the webpage for currency of information.

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With your input, this course will now be taught in an asynchronous fashion on the web because of the coronavirus epidemic and guidance from WKU for all courses that contain >50 students to go online. Therefore, there will be no prescribed meeting date or time for this course, although there will be course dates that have certain deadlines associated with them.

**When:** Asynchronous: No prescribed meeting place or time. However- exams and assignments are scheduled at certain times!!! (see schedule below)

**Where:** Online

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**Professor:** Dr. Noah Ashley

**Office hours:** by appointment.

-My office is **KTH 3032**, but due to the coronavirus, all of my appointments with students will occur virtually via Zoom conferencing as per WKU guidance.

**Contact Info:** The best way to reach me is through e-mail: [noah.ashley@wku.edu](mailto:noah.ashley@wku.edu).

I am usually very good about responding quickly, but if you do not hear from me within 24 hours, you can also try my **office phone (270-745-4268)**.

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### Course Information:

**Catalog Description:** Survey of animal phyla and major classes with emphasis upon morphological adaptations and biological systems that have evolved to maintain organismal and population homeostasis

### Course Objectives & Overview:

Upon completion of this course, the student shall be able to:	How the student will develop the learning outcomes	How the student will be assessed on these learning outcomes
1. Understand the evolutionary relationships between major groups of animals	Readings and lectures	4 Exams; Comprehensive final exam
2. Understand the major physiological systems vital for maintaining homeostasis	Readings and lectures	4 Exams; Comprehensive final exam

3. Ability to name morphological characteristics that differentiate the major groups of animals	Readings and lectures	4 Exams; Comprehensive final exam
4. Familiarity with scientific research and literature	Attending virtual research seminars, performing literature searches	Seminar summaries, paper summaries, online discussions

**Textbook/Course Materials:** Hickman et al. 2019. Integrated Principles of Zoology (18th ed.) McGraw Hill, New York.

**DO NOT PURCHASE- READ BELOW:**

The Biology Department at WKU has worked over the past years to develop a new model for textbook adoption. In order to save you some money, maximize your effective use of your textbook, increase learning and evaluate the best ways of teaching you difficult topics, we've entered into a partnership with McGraw-Hill publishers.

Message from McGraw-Hill: This course participates in The WKU Store's Day One Access program. This program is designed to provide immediate access to required materials for all students at prices cheaper than any other option. Required materials will be delivered to you automatically by enrolling in this course unless you choose to opt-out. By participating in this program, The WKU Store will bill your Student Billing account, and you will see a charge appear under this Term along with Tuition and Fees ("Account Summary by Term" under the Student Services tab) labelled as "The WKU Store Purchases" after the Add/Drop period. For more information on this program or to opt-out of participation, go to our information page, <http://www.wkustore.com/t-day-one-access.aspx>.

**Teaching Methods:** Students are expected to read assigned chapters in their electronic textbook and watch pre-recorded lectures that are accessible on Blackboard. It is essential that you keep up with the material every week!!! It is virtually impossible to cram for this course and be successful.

I will post recorded lectures on Blackboard every week. Students will also receive a copy of the powerpoint used for each lecture, but you will need to watch the recorded lectures because I have intentionally left off information in the powerpoint copies. The idea is for you to watch the lecture and fill in the necessary information in the incomplete ppt provided as you watch the video.

All students need to have a reliable internet connection to be able to complete reading and homework assignments (which are online). Exams will also be given online on Blackboard (more info on testing below).

**Attendance:** I will not check attendance, but I will be forced to drop you from the course if you do not complete assigned homework/exercises or are showing no involvement in the course on Blackboard/McGraw Hill sites.

**Smartbook in Connect:** The McGraw Hill Connect site contains your electronic textbook. I will provide info on how to synchronize your Blackboard account with Connect on the first day of class. For non-honors students, homework is assigned on Connect. You will not be required or expected to complete this homework, but it is useful for studying for exams, so I leave these exercises open for Honors students, but you will not receive any points for completing the exercises (even though these points may show-up in Blackboard- at the end of the course, I will delete these points if you are an Honors student. The assignments will involve use of Connect's newer Smartbook technology that involves you reading the textbook and answering a series of questions as you read (it is somewhat similar to LearnSmart, except that you read and answer questions at the same time).

**Exams:** There will be 4 regular exams during the semester and one comprehensive final. Each regular exam is worth 100 points and the final will be 200 points. At the end of the semester, I will drop your lowest grade of the four regular exams. Exams will consist mostly of multiple choice, but it is possible that you may see matching fill-in-the-blank, short answer, or heat map questions that involve pointing at pictures with your mouse to identify particular structures.

Regular exams will occur on Blackboard and will consist of 50 questions (2 points each). You will be given a 48-hour window to take the exam (see schedule below). The exams will open at noon, and be available on the site for 48 h. YOU WILL NEED TO TAKE THE EXAM DURING THIS TIME PERIOD. You will only receive one attempt on the exam, and you will be given 55 minutes to take the exam. The reason for a timed exam is to discourage cheating, but this allotted time will give you plenty of time to complete (if you have studied appropriately).

\*\*\*\*\*If you have any technical difficulties taking the exam, you will need to inform me as soon as possible and it will be necessary to schedule an in-person scantron exam if your online attempt was not successful\*\*\*\*\*

To reiterate, these are NOT open-book exams. Cheating is not tolerated, but I am realistic and understand that some students may be tempted since this course is online. By cheating, you are doing a disservice to yourself and the education that you have paid for. IF you are caught cheating, you will receive an automatic F for the course.

The final exam is comprehensive and will either be administered through Blackboard or McGraw Hill connect (TBD, dates below). It may require you to have a webcam for online proctoring that WKU is attempting to test out this fall, to again discourage cheating. You will be given a 4-day window to take the final, and it

consists of 100 questions. You will be provided 120 minutes to take the exam and only allowed one attempt.

**Honors Assignments:** To become familiar with scientific research, you will be required to attend 3 departmental seminars (20 pts total) that will be offered this semester on Zoom. You will also be responsible for 4 assignments (20 pts. each) that will involve performing literature searches, reading scientific papers, and writing short critiques of papers.

**Grading Scheme:** Your final grade will be based upon your performance on 4 regular exams (300 points possible after dropping lowest score), a comprehensive final (200 points), and Honors assignments (100 points) that total 600 possible points. Final grade = (total points you receive/600)\*100

The grading scale is:

A= 90's or 100      B = 80's      C = 70's      D = 60's      F = less than 60's

**Academic Honesty:** Cheating is not tolerated, and earns an automatic course failure (F). *“Dishonesty, such as cheating, plagiarism, misrepresenting of oneself or an organization, knowingly furnishing false information to the University, or omitting relevant or necessary information to gain a benefit, to injure, or defraud is prohibited.”* WKU Student Conduct Code.

**For Students with Disabilities Who Require Accommodations, Title IX Discrimination/Harassment, and other pertinent info, please see the following website:**

<https://www.wku.edu/syllabusinfo/index.php>

**Tentative Lecture Schedule- See next page**

**Tentative Lecture Schedule-** may change at the instructor's discretion

Date	Lecture Topic or Exam	Chapter in book	Honors Assignment
<b>UNIT 1</b> - Week 1	Introduction- review	10	
(Aug 24-28 <sup>th</sup> )	Porifera	12	
	Animal Body Plan	9	
Week 2	Cnidaria	13	#1- Due Sept. 4 <sup>th</sup>
(Aug 31 <sup>st</sup> - Sept 4 <sup>th</sup> )	Platyhelminthes	14	
	Tissues	9	
Week 3	Mollusca	16	
(Sept. 7 <sup>th</sup> - 11 <sup>th</sup> )	Annelida	17	
<b>Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup> (starting at noon- open for 48 hrs)</b>	<b>Exam 1</b>		
<b>UNIT 2</b> - Week 4 (Sept. 14 <sup>th</sup> - Sept. 18 <sup>th</sup> )	Reproduction	7	
	Nematodes	18	
Week 5 (Sept. 21 <sup>st</sup> - Sept. 25 <sup>th</sup> )	Arthropoda	19, 20, 21	#2- Due Sept. 25 <sup>th</sup>
	Development	8	
Week 6 (Sept. 28 <sup>th</sup> - Oct 2 <sup>nd</sup> )	Skeleton/Muscle	29	
<b>Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> (starting at noon- open for 48 hrs)</b>	<b>Exam 2</b>		
<b>UNIT 3</b> - Week 7 Oct. 5 <sup>th</sup> - Oct. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Respiration/circulation	31	
	Neurons	33	
Week 8 (Oct. 12 <sup>th</sup> - Oct. 15 <sup>th</sup> )	Echinoderms	22	
	Nervous system	33	
Week 9 (Oct. 19 <sup>th</sup> - 23 <sup>rd</sup> )	Chordate evolution	23	#3- Due Oct. 23 <sup>rd</sup>
	Sensory organs	33	
<b>Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> (starting at noon, open for 48 hrs).</b>	<b>Exam 3</b>		
<b>UNIT 4</b> - Week 10 (Oct. 26 <sup>th</sup> - Oct. 30 <sup>th</sup> )	Fishes	24	
	Immune System	35	

Week 11- (Nov 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Nov. 6 <sup>th</sup> )	Digestion	32	
	Amphibians	25	
Week 12- (Nov. 9- 13 <sup>th</sup> )	Reptiles	26	#4- Due Nov. 13th
	Aves	27	
<b>Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup> (starting at noon, open for 48 h)</b>	<b>Exam 4</b>		
Week 13- (Nov. 16 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup> )	Mammals	28	
	Homeostasis	30	
<b>December 7th-10th (Take final during any time within this 4-day period)</b>	<b>FINAL ONLINE EXAM- Cumulative</b>		

Last modified: 8/10/20