

**SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY FALL 2023**  
**BIOL 4409 Mammalogy Lab**

**Instructor:** Ms. Anne Marie Hilscher  
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**Laboratory:** W 1:00-2:40 in WSB 107

**Office Hours:** M 9-11 & 2-3; W 9-11; R 2-3; F  
by appt. Please email me at any time. I will  
respond within 24 hours (up to 48 hours on  
weekends).

**Course Description:** Students study the biology of mammals with an emphasis on evolution, population structure, reproduction, and physiological adaptation. This course will focus on the diversity of mammals with an emphasis on mammals of Texas, specifically the Trans Pecos region. The laboratory component of this course will make use of preserved museum specimens, dissections, and possibly field trips to illustrate the morphology, taxonomy, natural history, reproduction, and other aspects of mammal biology. A separate syllabus will be provided for the laboratory, as labs will differ slightly between campuses. Blackboard will be used as the primary communication hub, as well as the repository for materials associated with this course.

**Recommended Books, NOT REQUIRED**

1. *Mammals of Texas*. Schmidly & Bradley, 7e ISBN-13 978-1477308868 (highly recommended. The 2004 revised edition would be fine, too.)
2. *The Mammals of the Trans-Pecos*. Schmidly. ISBN-13 978-1585440269 (highly recommended)
3. *Peterson Field Guide to Mammals* (Peterson Field Guide), 4e ISBN-13 978-0395935965

**Exams and Grading:**

Lab Practicals (2 @ 100 pts ea)	200	67.0%
Field Notebook (1 @ 50 pts)	50	16.5%
Lab Presentation (1 @ 50 pts)	50	16.5%
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100%</b>

A 90 – 100%    B 80 – 89%    C 70 – 79%    D 60 – 69%    F <60%

**Attendance:** Mandatory. No roll will be called, but this course is sized to where I will recognize when someone is not present. **I am allowed to drop you from my class** if you miss **more than six times** (that accounts for 2 full weeks of lecture). I do not wish to hear excuses for missing class, and do not want to hear about it every time you are gone. Absences are excused only if you have a documented, university approved excuse (hospitalization, funeral, etc.) **DO NOT MISS EXAMS** unless you have a documented, university-approved excuse. If you do not inform me of your approved absence before the exam it will be a **ZERO**. For labs, **DO NOT MISS LAB PRACTICALS!!!** It is impossible to re-run them as they are set up with many lab components that take up space that is not guaranteed.

### Tentative Lab Schedule

Date	Topic
<b>Aug 30</b>	<b>No Lab</b>
Sept 06	Lab Intro; Field Notebooks; Skull Lab Part I
Sept 13	Skull Part II: Dental lab
Sept 20	Coyote Scat Lab
Sept 27	Mammal trapping (setup outside of class required)
Oct 04	Trans Pecos Mammals I
<b>Oct 11</b>	<b>Lab Practical 1</b>
Oct 18	Mammal Tracking
Oct 25	Trans Pecos Mammals II
Nov 01	Trans Pecos Mammals III
<b>Nov 08</b>	<b>Presentations</b>
<b>Nov 15</b>	<b>Lab Practical 2</b>
Nov 22	Thanksgiving Holiday—NO LAB
Nov 29	Turn in Field Notebooks

*\*\* A field trip may be included based on time, weather, and availability.*

**Course Objectives:** At the end of the semester, students will:

1. Sight-recognize the mammals of Texas and know the habitat and range in which they would be encountered.
2. Recall the families of North American mammals.
3. Recall the orders of mammals.
4. Use morphological features to identify and classify living and preserved mammals.
5. Compare different reproductive strategies of mammals.
6. Use a standard field guide to identify mammals.
7. Use databases to find primary literature to learn more about a mammalian family.
8. Record field sightings and behaviors of mammals.

**Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for Biology:**

1. Demonstrate an understanding of evolution by natural selection.
2. Demonstrate integration of environmental awareness into everyday modern life.
3. Understanding how to incorporate molecular biology into the study of the whole organism.
4. Demonstrate utilization of various field techniques toward addressing scientific questions in the discipline.
5. Conduct basic laboratory experiments utilizing standard observational strategies.

**MARKETABLE SKILLS:** A student getting a degree in the biological sciences would be expected to acquire the following marketable skills by graduation.

- 1) Students will be able to organize, analyze, and interpret data.
- 2) Students will be proficient at using presentation software.
- 3) Students will acquire experience in managing time and meeting deadlines.
- 4) Students will gain the ability to speak effectively and write concisely about scientific topics.
- 5) Students will acquire experience and guidance in the development of professional email correspondence.

**SRSU Attendance Policy.** Roll will be taken during each class meeting. The SRSU catalog states “The instructor may, at their discretion, drop a student from a course when the student has a total of nine absences in lecture and three absences in lab. An absence is defined as non-attendance in fifty minutes of class. Exams must be taken on the scheduled exam date that will be announced at least a week prior unless other arrangements have been made with the instructor. Exams must be made up within a week form the scheduled date. **RULE TO LIVE BY: DON’T MISS ANY CLASSES!** If you absolutely must miss, make sure you let me know before.

**Academic Integrity.** Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. A scholar is expected to be punctual, prepared, and focused; meaningful and pertinent participation is appreciated. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to: Turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person’s work as one’s own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden.

**SRSU Disability Services.** Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Alpine students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mary Schwartz Grisham, M.Ed., LPC, SRSU’s Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203 (please leave a message and we’ll get back to you as soon as we can during working hours), or email [mschwartz@sulross.edu](mailto:mschwartz@sulross.edu) Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

**Technical Support.** SRSU 24/7 Blackboard Technical Support: Phone: 888.837.6055.  
Email: [blackboardsupport@sulross.edu](mailto:blackboardsupport@sulross.edu)

**SRSU Library Services.** The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library in Alpine offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, [library.sulross.edu](http://library.sulross.edu). Off-campus access requires your LoboID and password. Check out materials using your photo ID. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email ([srsulibrary@sulross.edu](mailto:srsulibrary@sulross.edu)), or by phone (432-837-8123).

**Classroom Climate of Respect.** This class will foster free expression, critical investigation, and open discussion of ideas. This means that all of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose, and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment, or personal attack. No one is entitled to harass, belittle, or discriminate against another based on race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. Still, we will not be silenced by the difficulty of fruitfully discussing politically sensitive issues.

**Diversity Statement.** SRSU aims to create a learning environment for my students that supports a diversity of thoughts, perspectives, and experiences, and honors your identities (including race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability, socioeconomic class, age, nationality, etc.). We also understand that the crisis of COVID, economic disparity, health concerns, or even unexpected life events could impact the conditions necessary for you to succeed. Our commitment is to be there for you and help you meet the learning objectives of this course.

**For Remote/Online Courses Only - SRSU Distance Education Statement.**

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires a secure login. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website. Directions for filing a student complaint are in the student handbook.