Course Approval Form

For instructions: *http://registrar.gmu.edu/facultystaff/catalog-revisions/course/*

Action Requested: (definitions available at website above)
- [X] Create NEW
- [ ] Inactivate
- [ ] Modify (check all that apply below)
  - [ ] Title (must be 75% similar to original)
  - [ ] Credits
  - [ ] Repeat Status
  - [ ] Schedule Type
  - [ ] Prereq/coreq
  - [ ] Restrictions
  - [ ] Grade Mode
  - [ ] Other:

Course Level:
- [X] Undergraduate
- [ ] Graduate

College/School: College of Science
Department: Biology
Submitted by: Arndt F. Laemmerzahl
Ext: x3-5608
Email: alaemmer@gmu.edu

Subject Code: BIOL
Number: 438
(Do not list multiple codes or numbers. Each course proposal must have a separate form.)

Effective Term:
- [ ] Fall
- [X] Spring
- [ ] Summer

Year 2017

Title:
Current: Mammalogy
Banner (30 characters max w/ spaces):
New: Mammalogy

Fulfills Mason Core Req? (undergrad only)
- [ ] Currently fulfills requirement
- [ ] Submission in progress

Credits: (check one)
- [X] Fixed → 4
- [ ] Variable → to
- [ ] Lec + Lab/Rct→ 0 or

Repeat Status: (check one)
- [X] Not Repeatable (NR)
- [ ] Repeatable within degree (RD) →
- [ ] Repeatable within term (RT) →

Max credits allowed: (required for RT/RD status only) 4

Grade Mode: (check one)
- [X] Regular (A, B, C, etc.)
- [ ] Satisfactory/No Credit
- [ ] Special (A, B C, etc. +IP)

Schedule Type: (check one) LEC can include LAB or RCT if linked sections will be offered
- [X] Lecture (LEC)
- [X] Lab (LAB)
- [ ] Recitation (RCT)
- [ ] Internship (INT)
- [ ] Independent Study (IND)
- [ ] Seminar (SEM)
- [ ] Studio (STU)

Prerequisite(s) (NOTE: hard-coding requires separate Prereq Checking form; see above website): BIOL 308 or equivalent or POI

Corequisite(s):

Restrictions Enforced by System: Major, College, Degree, Program, etc. Include Code(s).

Equivalencies (check only as applicable):
- [X] YES, course is 100% equivalent to EVPP 437
- [ ] YES, course renumbered to or replaces

Catalog Copy (Consult University Catalog for models)

Description (No more than 60 words, use verb phrases and present tense)	**Notes** (List additional information for the course)
Study of evolution, systematics, physiology, ecology and behavior of mammals, emphasizing field work.	
Indicate number of contact hours: Hours of Lecture or Seminar per week: 3 — Hours of Lab or Studio: 2:40 **When Offered:** (check all that apply) [X] Fall [ ] Summer [ ] Spring	

Approval Signatures

Department Approval — Date: 10/26/16
College/School Approval — Date

If this course includes subject matter currently dealt with by any other units, the originating department must circulate this proposal for review by those units and obtain the necessary signatures prior to submission. Failure to do so will delay action on this proposal.

Unit Name	Unit Approval Name	Unit Approver's Signature	Date

Undergraduate or Graduate Council Approval

UGC or GC Council Member — Provost's Office — UGC or GC Approval Date

Form revised 9/2/2016

Biology 438, Mammalogy

Date of Departmental approval:

October 20, 2016

New course:

Course designation is to to cross list BIOL 538, Mammalogy, which has been taught for many years at GMU. As such, course is almost identical to BIOL 538.

The main reason for the cross listing is to make more organismal courses available to undergraduate students. (Mammalogy used to be solely an undergraduate course).

Relationship to existing courses:

Same as the current course, BIOL 538 as well as EVPP 538 and EVPP 438 (proposed in conjunction with this course).

Semester of initial offering:

Fall, 2017

Proposed Instructors:

Dr. Arndt F. Laemmerzahl

See attached syllabus.

BIOL 538 - Mammalogy

Basic information:

Instructor:

Arndt F. Laemmerzahl
Office: Exploratory Hall, 1209
Phone: 703 993 5608
e-mail: alaemmer@gmu.edu

Office hours: see web page

Course web page:

http://mason.gmu.edu/~alaemmer/mammalogy/main.html

You'll find a copy of this syllabus, lecture notes, and other information. Notice that blackboard won't be used for this class except (possibly) to post exam scores.

Texts:

Mammalogy, 6th ed. T.A. Vaughan, J.M. Ryan and N J. Czaplewski. 2013, Jones and Bartlett, Publishers, LLC

A field guide is also recommended/required*. There are several choices:

Mammals of North America, 2nd ed., Kays, R. W. and D. E. Wilson. 2009. Princeton Field Guides

Newer, with updated taxonomy.

Peterson Field Guide to Mammals of North America, 4th ed., F. Reid. 2006. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

A standard, although a bit outdated.

The National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Mammals: (Revised and Expanded). 1996. Alfred A. Knopf.

Uses photographs instead of drawings. Obviously a bit older than the others. Still, some people do prefer this one or use it as a secondary source.

* ***Note:*** these are probably not in the bookstore; they're available on line (try Amazon) and are probably cheaper that way.

Lecture exams:

Two exams, a midterm and final. Each is worth 35% (30% if you are a graduate student) of your total grade. Each exam is closed book, and will contain a combination of short essays, multiple choice, fill in the blanks, labeling and other things.

The midterm will use the entire class period (1:15 minutes). ***On or about October xxth.***

The final is 1:30 minutes. It's about the same length as the midterm, but we can give ourselves a little extra time. It is not cumulative. ***Monday, December xxth, at xxx.*** *(note time!).*

Labs:

Lab is worth 30% of your grade. You have three lab exams as well as various miscellaneous assignments.

Three identification exams, worth 7% each

Miscellaneous assignments worth 9%

Field trips are worth 1/2 extra credit point each (all you need to do is attend!).

Paper:

Graduate students will also need to write a paper on the natural history and ecology of selected species of mammals and then present their results in class. Details will be given in class.

Note that exams will be worth 30% for graduate students. The paper and presentation will be worth 10% of your grade.

Grading scale:

Your final grade will be based on your percent out of 100. The following grading scale will be used:

Undergraduates:

96-100 = A+	90 - 95 = A	86 - 89 = B+	80 - 85 = B
76 - 79 = C+	70 - 75 = C	60 - 69 = D	0 - 59 = F

Graduate students:

96-100 = A+	90 - 95 = A	86 - 89 = B+	80 - 85 = B
76 - 79 = C+	70 - 75 = C	0 - 69 = F	

You will notice that (-) grades are not used.

Miscellaneous

Honor code: if you are caught cheating, you will be taken to the honor committee. No arguments. Although quite rare, they have expelled people even for a first offense. Offenses are treated more severely for graduate students.

You are responsible for information and announcements presented in class and/or through e-mail. Not being in class or not checking your e-mail is not an excuse. Make sure your GMU e-mail is working: this is *your* responsibility!

Please do not be disruptive in class. No one is forcing you to be in class. If you want to have a conversation, use your phone, etc., please do it outside of class or you may be asked to leave.

Missed class : if for some reason class is canceled, then the following class will cover the material for the missed class. This is particularly important should an exam day be canceled for whatever reason (the exam will take place during our next scheduled class).

If you are having problems please see me. I'm here to help you learn this material ***and*** help you pass this class. I will do what I can to make sure that you make it through this class successfully. *Please don't wait too long if you are having difficulties.*

Finally, please try to be in class. *You will almost certainly not do well if you are absent too often.*

Information that applies to all classes at GMU:

(Some of this is a bit repetitive, but important. It applies to ***all*** your classes at GMU.)

Academic integrity

GMU is an Honor Code university; please see the University Catalog for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously and violations are treated gravely. What does academic integrity mean in this course? Essentially this: when you are responsible for a task, you will perform that task. When you rely on someone else's work in an aspect of the performance of that task, you will give full credit to those people in the proper, accepted form. When doing homework, the work must be yours. It is totally unacceptable to copy the work of another student in this course in any form.

GMU email accounts

Students must use their Mason email accounts—either the existing "MEMO" system or a new "MASONLIVE" account to receive important University information, including messages related to this class. See http://masonlive.gmu.edu for more information.

USEFUL CAMPUS RESOURCES:

Writing center

A114 Robinson Hall; (703) 993-1200; http://writingcenter.gmu.edu

University libraries ("Ask a Librarian")

http://library.gmu.edu/mudge/IM/IMRef.html

Counseling and psychological services (CAPS)

(703) 993-2380;
http://caps.gmu.edu

University policies

The University Catalog, http://catalog.gmu.edu, is the central resource for university policies affecting student, faculty, and staff conduct in university academic affairs. Other policies are available at http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/. All members of the university community are responsible for knowing and following established policies.

Disability Resource Center

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

Tentative **schedule:**

(Lecture topics probably won't change much (dates may change just a bit). Lab may still change, particularly as far as the dates go):

Week	Lecture topic	Lab topic	Comments
TBA	Intro/Taxonomy	Introduction/Lab procedures	
TBA	Evolution/origin	TBD	No class Monday (Labor day)
TBA	Anatomy/physiology *No lecture Wednesday*	*Visit Front Royal*	
TBA	Anatomy/physiology *No lecture Wednesday*	*Visit Zoo (?)*	
TBA	Mammal diversity	No labs on Wednesday ***Weekend @ Piedmont***	Weekend will include: tracking, camera traps & Sherman live trapping.
TBA	Mammal diversity	Skin lab	
TBA	Mammal diversity **Midterm (Wed., tentative)**	Self study	
TBA	Mammal diversity	Skull lab	We meet on Tuesday (GMU: all Monday classes meet Tuesday)
TBA	Mammal diversity	Self study	
TBA	Misc. topics (e.g. echolocation)	Skin exam	
TBA	Misc. topics *No lecture Wednesday*	*Field trip to Smithsonian* (see collections)	
TBA	Ecology	Skull exam	
TBA	**No class**	**No class**	Thanksgiving (***we will take off Monday***).
TBA	Ecology		
TBA	Conservation biology	Photo exam	

Note: many of our field trips will require more than 2 hours and 40 minutes, so for some of these days, lecture will be canceled so that we can use the entire time (4 hours and 15 minutes) for our field trip.

Conversely, some lecture time may be made up by using lab time on some Wednesdays which are not being used for field trips.