Welcome to BIOLOGY 2371! This course is designed to provide students with a rigorous and comprehensive introduction to the Kingdom Animalia. We will cover many topics beyond form and function including diversity and classification of both vertebrate and invertebrate animals.

COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Three semester hours, two hours lecture per week, three hours lab per week. The study of biological concepts relevant to the life-history traits of animals, including growth and development, structure and function, and cellular and molecular metabolism. The phylogenetic relationships among the major animal groups are emphasized. (This course is intended for science majors.)

Instructor: Dr. Dan Bennett  
Department: Biology  
Phone: 468-5163  
E-mail: bennettdj@sfasu.edu  
Office: S-210; Office hours: M, W, F 8:30–9:30, W: 1:30–3:30 (drop-ins welcome, no appointment needed); widely available by appointment for other times.

Facial Coverings and Social Distancing Policy
Masks or similar cloth face coverings must be worn over the nose and mouth at all times in this class and appropriate physical distancing must be observed. Students not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be asked to leave the class.

Required Materials
Lab Manual: See lab syllabus for current info.

Course Website: https://d2l.sfasu.edu/  
Check daily for announcements, lecture slides and other materials.

GRADING POLICY
Lecture exams: 75% (3 required exams, 25% each; 4th optional comprehensive replaces lowest of exams 1 or 2.)  
Lab: 25%
Note that lecture and lab grades are combined and applied to both BIO 2371 & 2371L. For example, if you earn an A in lecture, a C in lab, and a B overall, your transcript will record a B for both lecture and lab. No supplemental assignments are provided on an individual basis at the end of the course to boost one’s grade.

GRADING SCALE: A = 90–100%; B = 80–89%; C = 70–79%; D = 60–69%; < 60% = F

CLASS TIME: Lectures are pre-recorded, provided online via D2L and can be viewed any time. Class time Tuesdays (other than day 1) are devoted to question/answer sessions and are held in Zoom (think of them as office hours dedicated to this class). Thursdays are devoted to review and will start out with a bonus-point pop quiz, meaning if you attend and take the quiz, you earn a bonus point towards the upcoming exam.

EXAMS: The first two exams will be held in class, face-to-face. Be sure to bring a pencil. An answer sheet and/or scantron will be provided by the instructor. Exams 3 & 4 will be held online, details to follow.

Do not miss an exam or arrive late. At a minimum, latecomers will be assessed a penalty. A student arriving more than 15 minutes late may be denied the exam. Unless extraordinary circumstances apply, makeup exams must be completed before the next class period and will only be allowed for students with an excused absence. Excused absences are granted for a serious illness, injury, university-sponsored event, or death in the family. Documentation (e.g., doctor’s note) will be required. Note that the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities will provide notification of absences to instructors but do not provide verification. Thus, if you miss an exam and wish to claim an excused absence and be provided a makeup, contact the instructor by email, phone, or office visit within two business days of the missed exam, provide documentation with verification, and discuss options. If it is not possible to make up the exam before the next class period, the comprehensive final may be used as a makeup option.

PARTICIPATION & ATTENDANCE POLICY: Although attendance is not a direct component of the grade calculation, students with poor attendance typically do not pass this course. Good attendance and participation may be associated with bonus points applied towards an upcoming exam. However, bonus points are withheld if students exhibit poor behavior (including cell phone use, texting, private conversations, seeping, appearing to sleep, tardiness etc.). Participation in the end-of-course evaluation is a
Students requesting a WH must be passing the course with a minimum projected grade of C.

The circumstances precipitating the request must have occurred after the last day in which a student could withdraw and be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom.

Do not carry on a separate conversation that might be distracting to your neighbors. Keep cell phones silenced and stowed away. Students texting, arriving late, leaving early, sleeping, talking amongst themselves, not participating in activities, repeatedly returning to and from class, or otherwise misbehaving may be subject to loss of points and/or dismissed from class. The use of a computer is allowed for taking notes only.

SUGGESTIONS
- Check D2L daily for announcements.
- Use the course calendar. An up-to-date version is always posted on d2l.
- Use the textbook. Skim the appropriate chapter before class. After class, read in detail areas overlapping with the lecture.
- Print lecture slides before class and bring them to lecture. These consist of skeletal outlines that you will complete during lecture. They are designed to give you a head start and provide you with figures and diagrams. Don't expect to be able to always keep up taking notes without this head start.
- Study at least 1–2 hours per lecture. Stay caught up and avoid cramming all your studying in a few days before the exam.
- Ask questions, but in class and during office hours.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES/OBJECTIVES (SLOs)
SLO 1. Critically assess information in primary literature articles and communicate conclusions in oral and written form (CO 1, 2)
SLO 2. Work in teams to apply basic methods for developing and testing scientific hypotheses and communicate their conclusions in oral, visual, and written form. (CO 1, 2, 3, 4)
SLO 3. Explain how comparative methods are used to understand animal evolution ("tree-thinking") & classification. (CO 1, 2, 3)
SLO 4. Describe how anatomical and physiological adaptations have evolved in different ecological contexts. (CO 1)
SLO 5. Identify major animal lineages and their distinguishing characteristics. (CO 1)

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES
PLO 1. The student will demonstrate a good knowledge base in biological concepts. (SLOs 3-5)
PLO 2. Clearly articulate scientific information in oral form. (SLOs 1-2)
PLO 3. Clearly articulate scientific information in written form. (SLOs 1-2)
PLO 4. Be able to design, carry out, and analyze experiments to answer biological questions. (SLO 2)
PLO 5. Demonstrate teamwork skills needed to coordinate diverse multidisciplinary teams to solve challenges in the biological world. (SLO 2)

GENERAL EDUCATION CORE CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES
Texas State Core Objectives and associated Student Learning Outcomes.

CO 1. Critical Thinking: to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information. (SLOs 1-5)
CO 2. Communication Skills: to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication. (SLOs 1-3).
CO 3. Empirical and Quantitative Skills: to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions. (SLOs 1-3)
CO 4. Teamwork: to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal. (SLO 2)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Academic integrity is expected of everyone in this course. Any form of academic dishonesty will lead to the student receiving a failing grade for the entire course. Additionally, a Report of Academic Dishonesty form will be submitted to your Dean's office.

SFA Policy A-9.1 is summarized as follows: Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism. Definition of Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

WITHHELD GRADES (Semester Grades Policy A-54): Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average. The circumstances precipitating the request must have occurred after the last day in which a student could withdraw from a course. Students requesting a WH must be passing the course with a minimum projected grade of C.
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, Room 325, 468-3004/468-1004 (TDD), as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodation. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/. Please note that you must visit with me outside of class time concerning your request before I will be able to provide the accommodations described in the notification from ODS.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, VERSION 1 (TOPICS SUBJECT TO CHANGE, SEE D2L FOR CURRENT SCHEDULE)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week; date</th>
<th>TOPICS – Delivered with videos posted to Brightspace except where noted.</th>
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| 1: Aug. 25, 27 | T: Intro to class (face-to-face); Properties of life, animals (Ch 1); Overview of life’s major groups  
Th: Heredity (Ch 5); Reproduction (Ch 7) |
| 2: Sept. 1, 3 | T: Development I & II (Ch 8)  
Th: Body types (Ch 9); Taxonomy and Phylogeny I (Ch 10) |
| 3: Sept. 8, 10 | T: Taxonomy and phylogeny II (Ch 10)  
Th: Digestion, nutrition (Ch 32); Porifera (Ch 12) |
| 4: Sept. 15, 17 | T: Cnidaria (Ch 13)  
Th: Homeostasis I (Ch 30) |
| 5: Sept. 22, 24 | T: review  
*Th: Exam 1 (face-to-face) |
| 6: Sept. 29, Oct. 1 | T: Homeostasis II (Ch 31)  
Th: Platyhelminthes (Ch 14) |
| 7: Oct. 6, 8 | T: Support, protection, movement (Ch 29)  
Th: Mollusca (Ch 16) |
| 8: Oct. 13, 15 | T: Annelids (Ch 17)  
Th: Arthropoda I: intro, Chelicerata, Myriapoda (Ch 19) |
| 9: Oct. 20, 22 | T: Arthropoda II: Crustacea (Ch 20);  
Th: Arthropoda III: Hexapoda (Ch 21) |
| 10: Oct. 27, 29 | T: Review  
*Th: Exam 2 (face-to-face) |
| 11: Nov. 3, 5 | T: Nervous system (Ch 33)  
Th: Echinodermata and kin (Ch 22) |
| 12: Nov. 10, 12 | T: Chordata (Ch 23); Fishes (Ch 24) I  
Th: Fishes (Ch 24) II; Amphibians (Ch 25) |
| 13: Nov. 17, 19 | T: Non-avian reptiles (Ch 26)  
Th: Birds (Ch 27) |
| 14: Dec. 1, 3 | T: Mammals (Ch 28)  
Th: Course review |

*Exam 3: Th. Dec. 10, 8:00–8:50 (online)  
*Exam 4: Th. Dec. 10, 9:00–9:50 (online; optional comprehensive)