



### Basic Course Information

Semester:	<b>Fall 2025</b>	Instructor Name:	<b>Peggy Brady</b>
Course Title & #:	<b>Biol 124 Biology of Animals</b>	Email:	<b>Peggy.brady@imperial.edu</b>
CRN #:	<b>11233</b>	Webpage (optional):	<b>Canvas</b>
Classroom:	<b>2713</b>	Office #:	<b>2777</b>
Class Dates:	8/11/25 – 12/6/25	Office Hours:	M: 4-5pm, T-Th: 3-4pm.
Class Days:	<b>M/W</b>	Office Phone #:	<b>760-355-6202</b>
Class Times:	8:00 – 11:10 am	Emergency Contact:	peggy.brady@imperial.edu
Units:	4	Class Format/Modality:	Face-to-Face (On Ground)

### Course Description

Introduction to the basic principles of animal biology and diversity, including both invertebrate and vertebrate groups. Topics include: evolution, classification, anatomy, physiology, behavior and ecology. Biodiversity and current conservation issues are also included. (CSU/UC)

### Course Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s)

Successful completion of Intermediate Algebra or appropriate placement as defined by AB705.

### Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

1. Display knowledge of the animal kingdom and familiarity with the diversity of animals that share our planet.
2. Demonstrate critical thinking and analyzing skills with respect to various zoological topics.

### Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Distinguish among the diversity of the major animal phyla.
2. Discuss and compare the anatomy and physiology of the major animal phyla.
3. Explain the structure and function of DNA and cells.
4. Discuss the main mechanisms of evolutionary change, including natural and sexual selection.
5. Discuss various aspects of animal behavior such as foraging strategies and reproductive strategies.
6. Discuss various ecological topics such food webs, limiting factors, biomes, symbiosis, and population biology.
7. Discuss biodiversity, endangered species and conservation strategies.



## Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

**This class one required book (a combination textbook and lab manual available as a custom edition at reduced cost) and requires lab safety goggles.**

*This course has a required textbook that can be purchased here:*

<https://www.mheducation.com/highered/custom/product/9781307993554.html>

*Title: Zoology*

*Custom Edition of Integrated Principles of Zoology, 19<sup>th</sup> Edition (including appropriate lab manual chapters) for Imperial Valley College.*

*ISBN: 9781307993554*

### **Lab Goggles (for dissection labs)**

**Product #** MMS011799053/0

**Available at the IVC Bookstore**

**Also available from other retailers such as Amazon or Walmart.**

## Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Class activities: This class will utilize lectures, videos, discussions, and other activities to aid your learning. You are expected to come to class having looked over the materials presented in the textbook. This will help you engage during the class. You have an obligation to the others in the class to participate in creating an excellent learning environment in our classroom.

Examples of learning activities you may see:

- Discussion of Questions/Videos/Other media
- Poll Questions using Poll Everywhere
- Online simulations or activities
- Case Studies
- Student led discussions of assigned topics
- Writing activities
- Brainstorming
- And Many More!

**Lecture Exams:** There will be 4 Lecture exams worth 100 points each (400 points total). Exams will happen at the end of class. Each exam will be given 70 minutes for completion with the exception of the final where you will have 90 minutes. These exams can include multiple choice, short answer, true/false, matching, and fill in the blank questions. You may be asked to read a passage and provide analysis based on your scientific understanding of the field. Figures from lecture and/or the textbook may appear. Be sure to bring a few writing utensils. Exams must be submitted in pen if the student wishes to request a regrade on a question.

**Lab Exams:** There will be 2 lab exams worth 100 points. They will be given during the laboratory time. You will have the entire time to complete the exam, but you may not need the entire lab period. These exams can include multiple choice, short answer, true/false, fill in the blank, and practical (application) questions. For some questions you may need to complete a task (such as take measurements) to answer the question.

**There will be no makeup exams, except for extreme circumstances (ex. illness, emergency).** If you have a valid and documentable reason for missing an exam it is your responsibility to inform me (the instructor) within 48 hours of the missed exam and provide documentation for the day of the exam. This must be done by email. Exceptions to this 48



hour timeline will only be allowed in cases where the student was incapacitated for this time (ex. Hospitalization). Without this you will be unable to make up the exam and a grade of 0 will be entered into the gradebook. The makeup exam will be scheduled as soon as reasonably possible, typically within 1 week of the original exam. Failure to show up for the makeup will be treated the same way as missing the original exam day. Work conflicts, family conflicts, travel, or forgetting about the exam do not count as valid excused absences.

**Lab worksheets:** There will be 12 lab worksheets worth 25 points each (300 points total). Lab worksheets are due at the end of lab. Your lab group will be responsible for submitting your worksheet every week. You are responsible for making sure everyone's name is on the worksheet. Students must stay in lab until everyone in their lab group has completed the entire lab. Leaving before your lab group is done will result in a 0 for that lab assignment. The lab groups must also clean their lab area before leaving to receive full points for their lab assignments (up to 20% of points for the entire assignment can be deducted if the group leaves a messy lab station). These assignments cannot be made up because lab rooms are set up only for the day of the lab. Students may their first missed lab excused without documentation. After the first absence, additional missed labs will require valid documentation to be excused from the assignment. No more than 4 lab assignments will be excused. This documentation must be provided by email within 48 hours of the missed lab. Exceptions to this 48 hour timeline will only be allowed in cases where the student was incapacitated for this time (ex. Hospitalization).

**iNaturalist Project Presentations:** Each student will be responsible for 2 in-class presentations that stem from using the iNaturalist website/app. Each project is worth 50 points (10 pts from homework, 40 points from presentation). A rubric will be provided on Canvas. All students must attend presentation day and stay through their peers' presentations.

**Spelling and grammar** (within reason) count on all written assignments. If spelling or grammar impede my ability to understand your answer you will lose points.

**Extra Credit:** I often give extra credit in the form bonus questions on exams. These are never guaranteed. If I choose to do so, everyone will receive the same opportunities to earn the extra points.

**Late Work:** I do not accept late work without documentation.

### Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

4 class exams - 100 points each  
2 lab exams - 100 points each  
2 iNaturalist Projects – 50 points each  
12 Lab worksheets - 25 points each

Total: 1000 points

Grade Breakdown:

**A** 900 - 1000 points  
**B** 800 - 899 points  
**C** 700 - 799 points  
**D** 600 - 699 points  
**F** 0 - 599 points

Should I feel a grade adjustment is called for based upon the distribution of point totals across the entire class, I will adjust this grading scheme. However, anyone receiving  $\geq 90\%$  of all points is guaranteed at least an A,  $\geq 80\%$  of all points at least a B, and  $\geq 70\%$  of all points at least a C. The grade cutoffs might fall below these levels but will not be raised above them.



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At the end of the term many students tend to email me asking me to round their grade. Decisions on grade adjustments, as per the policy above, are done once I can see the distribution of grades for the entire class. If any adjustments are made, they will be applied to all students in the course. Emailing me will not change your final grade. Because of this, I ask that you please refrain from emailing about grade adjustments.

### Academic Honesty (Artificial Intelligence -AI)

IVC values critical thinking and communication skills and considers academic integrity essential to learning. Using AI tools as a replacement for your own thinking, writing, or quantitative reasoning goes against both our mission and academic honesty policy and will be considered academic dishonesty, or plagiarism unless you have been instructed to do so by your instructor. In case of any uncertainty regarding the ethical use of AI tools, students are encouraged to reach out to their instructors for clarification.

**My policy:** AI use is not permitted in this class for any reason. Therefore, using AI in any capacity for any assignment where you would earn points will result in an automatic 0 for cheating.

Academic honesty in the advancement of knowledge requires that all students and instructors respect the integrity of one another's work and recognize the important of acknowledging and safeguarding intellectual property.

There are many different forms of academic dishonesty. The following kinds of honesty violations and their definitions are not meant to be exhaustive. Rather, they are intended to serve as examples of unacceptable academic conduct.

- ☐ Plagiarism is taking and presenting as one's own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to "cite a source" correctly, you must ask for help.
- ☐ Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment, or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials that are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.
- ☐ Reusing work submitted in previous courses. I expect all work done in my courses to be original work on the student. A student is not permitted to reuse work done in previous courses (whether done in another course entirely or if the student is retaking this course).

**While group work is encouraged and expected on labs, note that sharing work so that others may copy it without doing the work themselves is considered cheating and will result in a 0 on the assignment for both groups.**

Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the [General Catalog](#) for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment; (c) communicating test information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment; (e) using a commercial term paper service; (f) using work from a previous course and submitting it for credit.

### Accessibility Statement

Imperial Valley College is committed to providing an accessible learning experience for all students, regardless of course modality. Every effort has been made to ensure that this course complies with all state and federal



accessibility regulations, including Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations. However, if you encounter any content that is not accessible, please contact your instructor or the area dean for assistance. If you have specific accommodations through **DSPS**, contact them for additional assistance.

We are here to support you and ensure that you have equal access to all course materials.

## Course Policies

### **Attendance:**

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See the [General Catalog](#) for details.
- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and may be dropped.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.

### **Classroom Etiquette:**

It is everyone's responsibility to create a fair, welcoming, productive, and collaborative learning environment. It falls on each of us to make sure the learning environment of our classroom is free from unnecessary distractions, personal attacks, and other disrespectful behavior. It is in your best interests and in the best interests of your fellow classmates to engage in each lesson to help us all achieve the learning goals set forth in the syllabus. Distracting and/or inappropriate behavior will be met with a warning and, if continued, will result in you being asked to leave the classroom until you are ready to engage with the material again.

### **Classroom Rules:**

- No food or drink allowed during lab periods.
- Cell phones must be on silent and put away during the entire class period. Failure to do so will result in you being asked to leave. Cell phones are a distraction to you, me, and the other students in the class. If you need to take or make a call, please get up and return to class when you are done.
- No talking during lecture or other presentation portions of the class. It is distracting to everyone. If you have a question please raise your hand and I will happily address it. Students who continue to disrupt class after a warning will be asked to leave. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the General Catalog.
- Due to college rules, no one who is not enrolled in the class may attend.

### **Additional Lab Safety Requirements:**

Absolutely no food or drink (including water). If you need to drink water or eat you may step out and rejoin the class when you are done.

Wear closed toe shoes and other protective clothing. This is for your own safety.

Some labs will require safety goggles for your protection. You will need to provide your own goggles.



### **Email Policy:**

I will respond to emails within 1 business day. If a full business day has passed, send a follow-up email. Saturdays and Sundays are not business days. I do try to answer emails on the weekend, but I cannot guarantee them.

### **Tips to Help you Succeed!**

1. Make sure you come on time to all lectures and labs! Arriving late or missing a class for any reason (excused or unexcused) can cause you to miss lecture and lab material, and will only put you at a disadvantage in this class.
2. Make sure you know what will be happening each day for class! Keep the class schedule handy.
3. Skim through or read the chapter before coming to lecture, and lab activities before coming to lab. You will have a general feel for the subject matter, which will help your understanding of the material during lecture. You will also be more prepared to do the lab activity, and you can perform it better, quicker, and will be able to easily understand what is happening in the lab.
4. Pay attention during lectures! I will say things during lecture that are not written on the PowerPoint slides or the board that will be on the exams. Make sure you take good notes during class. Don't just mindlessly write down word-for-word what is on the slides.  
Listen to what I have to say, and take notes on that also!
5. Study, study, study! I will not attempt to tell you how much time you need to set aside for studying, as different students will require different amounts of time to meet their goals. Ideally, you should study in an area where there are no distractions (television, radio, computers, iPods, other people, etc.). However, you should also spend time studying in groups. Nothing makes you learn the material better than having to explain it to someone else!
6. Don't cram! It's better to spend some time each week studying as compared to saving it all until the night before the exam (research really backs this up).
7. It is not enough just to memorize facts! On the exams, you will be responsible for using the information learned and applying it to new situations. You need to understand what these facts mean!

### **Financial Aid**

Your Grades Matter! In order to continue to receive financial aid, you must meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirement. Making SAP means that you are maintaining a 2.0 GPA, you have successfully completed 67% of your coursework, and you will graduate on time. If you do not maintain SAP, you may lose your financial aid. If you have questions, please contact financial aid at [finaid@imperial.edu](mailto:finaid@imperial.edu).

### **IVC Student Resources**

IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit <http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources> or click the heart icon in Canvas.

If you are experiencing illness (physical or mental) the health center is here for you! They can be found here: <https://www.imperial.edu/student-support/student-health-center/>

Notes from the health center are one form of documentation accepted for excused absences. Remember they must excuse you from the day you missed the exam/lab to be accepted.

### **Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar**

Week	Lecture Topic & Associated Textbook Reading	Lab Topic and Associated Lab Manual text
Week 1	Class Introduction	Exercise 1A and 1B: The Microscope

Week	Lecture Topic & Associated Textbook Reading	Lab Topic and Associated Lab Manual text
Aug 11-15	Chapter 1: Life: Biological Principles and the Science of Zoology	
Week 2 Aug 18-22	Chapter 3: Cells as Units of Life	Exercise 2A and 2B: Cell Structure and Division
Week 3 Aug 25-29	Chapter 6: Organic Evolution	Introduction to iNaturalist (not in Lab Manual) + Introduction to first iNaturalist Project
Week 4 Sep 1-5	No Class Holiday!	Exercise 4: Tissue Structure and Function
Week 5 Sep 8-12	Chapter 10: Taxonomy and Phylogeny of Animals and <b>Exam 1 (Weeks 1-4)</b>	Exercise 6A: Introduction to Animal Taxonomy
Week 6 Sep 15-19	Major Animal Phyla 1 Chapter 12.1-12.3, 13.1-13.2, 14.3, 16.1-16.2	Exercise 9A and 10A: Class Hydrozoa, Class Turbellaria
Week 7 Sep 22-26	Major Animal Phyla 2 17.1, 19.1, 20.1, 21.1, 22.2, 23.1-23.2	<b>Lab Exam 1 (Lab Weeks 1-6)</b>
Week 8 Sep 29 – Oct 3	Early Vertebrates and Fishes Chapter 23.5, 24, and <b>Exam 2 (Weeks 5-7)</b>	iNaturalist Arthropod presentations – 1 slide per student + Introduction of second iNaturalist Project
Week 9 Oct 6-10	Chapter 25 Early Tetrapods and Amphibians	Exercise 20D-20E Frog Dissection ( <b>requires safety goggles</b> )
Week 10 Oct 13-17	Chapter 28 Mammals	Exercise 23 - Mammalian skeletal study
Week 11 Oct 20-24	Reptiles and Birds Chapter 26, 27	Reptile and Bird Skeletal systems (Ch 21 and 22)
Week 12 Oct 27 – Oct 31	Overview of Organ Systems 31.3-31.4; 32.2; 33.1 and <b>Exam 3 (Weeks 8-11)</b>	Fetal Pig Dissection 1 ( <b>requires safety goggles</b> ) Exercise 23C
Week 13 Nov 3 - 7	Chapter 36: Animal Behavior	Fetal Pig Dissection 2 ( <b>requires safety goggles</b> ) Exercise 23D, 23E
Week 14 Nov 10-14	No Class Holiday!	Animal Behavior Lab (Chapter 36 of Textbook)
Week 15 Nov 17-21	Chapter 38: Animal Ecology	<b>Lab Exam 2 (weeks 9-14)</b>
Thanksgiving	No Class!	No Class!
Week 16 Dec 1-5	<b>Final Exam (Weeks 12-15)</b>	iNaturalist Vertebrate Presentations 1 slide per student

\*\*\*Subject to change without prior notice\*\*\*

## Instructor Introduction



Hello! It's so wonderful to meet you! I know sometimes instructors can seem intimidating so I want to take some space to introduce myself and showcase that I'm just another person you will be interacting with.

My name is Peggy. You can call me Peggy, Dr. Brady, Professor Brady, Dr. Peggy, Professor Peggy, whichever of these you are most comfortable with! It has been my privilege to be involved in undergraduate education for the last 6 years. During my time in graduate school, I've been involved in classes ranging from general biology to disease ecology from systematics to comparative anatomy! I studied at UC Santa Cruz where I received my Bachelor of Science degree in General Biology. After that, I attended CSU Sacramento and obtained a Master of Science degree in Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology. It was at CSU Sacramento that I developed a love for teaching science. Finally, I attended UC Riverside where I earned a PhD in Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology. Over my time in graduate school, I've conducted research centered on kin selection in fruit flies and mammalian phylogenetics. I'm happy to discuss any of these experiences with you or answer questions you may have about higher education in biology. My office hours are a great time for these kinds of questions. I'm looking forward to meeting all of you soon!



This is a picture of me standing next to Max Mastodon! Max is a Pacific Mastodon who is typically on display at the Western Science Center in Hemet CA. He has his own twitter page @MaxMastodon if you want to learn more about this fossil!