BIOL369
Vertebrate Evolution
S1 External 2017
Dept of Biological Sciences

Contents

General Information ........................................ 2
Learning Outcomes ........................................ 2
Assessment Tasks ........................................... 3
Delivery and Resources .................................... 5
Policies and Procedures .................................... 5
Graduate Capabilities ...................................... 7

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General Information

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W21B
Mon 2-5pm

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Credit points
3

Prerequisites
(39cp at 100 level or above) including BIOL262 or BIOL208 or BIOL228 or BIOL229

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
Evolution is a dynamic process that has occurred over many millions of years (deep evolution) or in recent times (contemporary evolution). This unit considers the major events in vertebrate evolution: invertebrate chordate to vertebrate; jawless to jawed; water to land; ectothermy to endothermy; and land to air. The newly emerging synthesis of evolutionary and developmental biology is having considerable impact on current vertebrate evolutionary theory, as are molecular techniques for constructing phylogenics. These topics are discussed in relation to deep and contemporary evolution of vertebrate groups. Lecture topics also include current aspects such developments in evolution of vertebrate behaviours, macro-evolution, and human evolution. The practical work focuses on phylogenics, and comparative anatomy and morphology of representative vertebrate groups, to reinforce lecture themes.

Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at http://students.mq.edu.au/student_admin/enrolmentguide/academicdates/

Learning Outcomes

1. Apply taxonomic nomenclature to vertebrate groups
2. Relate anatomical traits to the diversity of key vertebrate species
3. Associate the major steps in vertebrate evolution to body form and physiological function
4. Evaluate different methods for determining evolutionary relationships
5. Classify vertebrate behaviours to functional roles and interactions at community levels
6. Communicate scientific information relevant to vertebrate evolution in oral and in written format

**Assessment Tasks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly activities</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Each Monday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oz Vertebrate Evolution</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>03/04/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prac Notes</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>05/06/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prac Report</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>29/05/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Weekly activities**

Due: Each Monday  
Weighting: 15%

You will demonstrate your understanding of important concepts and current themes in Vertebrate evolution

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
- Apply taxonomic nomenclature to vertebrate groups
- Relate anatomical traits to the diversity of key vertebrate species
- Associate the major steps in vertebrate evolution to body form and physiological function
- Evaluate different methods for determining evolutionary relationships
- Classify vertebrate behaviours to functional roles and interactions at community levels

**Oz Vertebrate Evolution**

Due: 03/04/2017  
Weighting: 15%

Australia is a country of extremes and many of our animals are superbly adapted to cope. In combination with a workshop presented at the Zoo, students will pick an Australian native animal to study and highlight the key adaptations that have enabled that animal to live in the harsh Australian environment. Each student will put together an ePoster to present their findings to the class.
This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Apply taxonomic nomenclature to vertebrate groups
- Relate anatomical traits to the diversity of key vertebrate species
- Associate the major steps in vertebrate evolution to body form and physiological function
- Classify vertebrate behaviours to functional roles and interactions at community levels
- Communicate scientific information relevant to vertebrate evolution in oral and in written format

**Prac Notes**

Due: **05/06/2017**  
Weighting: **10%**

An important part of being a scientist is keeping good lab notes.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Apply taxonomic nomenclature to vertebrate groups
- Relate anatomical traits to the diversity of key vertebrate species
- Associate the major steps in vertebrate evolution to body form and physiological function
- Evaluate different methods for determining evolutionary relationships
- Classify vertebrate behaviours to functional roles and interactions at community levels

**Prac Report**

Due: **29/05/17**  
Weighting: **20%**

Compare and contrast the morphology of a rat with a marsupial.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Apply taxonomic nomenclature to vertebrate groups
- Relate anatomical traits to the diversity of key vertebrate species
- Associate the major steps in vertebrate evolution to body form and physiological function
- Evaluate different methods for determining evolutionary relationships
- Classify vertebrate behaviours to functional roles and interactions at community levels
- Communicate scientific information relevant to vertebrate evolution in oral and in written format
Exam
Due: TBA
Weighting: 40%

The final exam will cover both lecture and practical material

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

• Apply taxonomic nomenclature to vertebrate groups
• Relate anatomical traits to the diversity of key vertebrate species
• Associate the major steps in vertebrate evolution to body form and physiological function
• Evaluate different methods for determining evolutionary relationships
• Classify vertebrate behaviours to functional roles and interactions at community levels

Delivery and Resources

Lecture materials and iLectures will be available through iLearn

iLearn is a web-based computer mediated communication package and can be accessed by most web browsers from inside or outside the University. iLearn and email will be the principle method of communication in this subject.

We expect you to use iLearn for:

• Regularly checking subject announcements
• Downloading lecture materials
• Downloading laboratory materials
• Downloading reference materials
• Checking your grades
• Conversing with your student community

How do you log in? The URL for the iLearn is: https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/. You will need to log in to iLearn each time you use it. Your user name is your student number and the password your oneID. For further details go to http://mq.edu.au/iLearn/student_info/index.htm. If you are having trouble accessing your online unit due to a disability or health condition, please go to the Student Services Website at http://sss.mq.edu.au/equity/about for information on how to get assistance. If you cannot log in after ensuring you have entered your username and password correctly, you should contact Student IT Help, Phone: (02) 9850 4357 (in Sydney) or 1 800 063 191 (outside Sydney).

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central. Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html
Unit guide  BIOL369 Vertebrate Evolution


Disruption to Studies Policy  http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html  The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the Learning and Teaching Category of Policy Central.

**Student Code of Conduct**

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct:  https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

**Results**

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in  eStudent. For more information visit  ask.mq.edu.au.

**Student Support**

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit  http://students.mq.edu.au/support/

**Learning Skills**

Learning Skills  (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module for Students
- Ask a Learning Adviser

**Student Enquiry Service**

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at  ask.mq.edu.au

**Equity Support**

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.
**Graduate Capabilities**

**Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills**

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Relate anatomical traits to the diversity of key vertebrate species
- Associate the major steps in vertebrate evolution to body form and physiological function
- Evaluate different methods for determining evolutionary relationships

**Assessment tasks**

- Weekly activities
- Oz Vertebrate Evolution
- Prac Notes
- Prac Report
- Exam

**Problem Solving and Research Capability**

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcome**

- Classify vertebrate behaviours to functional roles and interactions at community levels

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For help with University computer systems and technology, visit [http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/](http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/).

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.
Assessment tasks

• Weekly activities
• Oz Vertebrate Evolution
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• Prac Report
• Exam

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

• Apply taxonomic nomenclature to vertebrate groups
• Evaluate different methods for determining evolutionary relationships
• Communicate scientific information relevant to vertebrate evolution in oral and in written format

Assessment tasks

• Weekly activities
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Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

• Apply taxonomic nomenclature to vertebrate groups
• Relate anatomical traits to the diversity of key vertebrate species
• Associate the major steps in vertebrate evolution to body form and physiological function
• Evaluate different methods for determining evolutionary relationships
• Classify vertebrate behaviours to functional roles and interactions at community levels
• Communicate scientific information relevant to vertebrate evolution in oral and in written format

**Assessment tasks**

• Weekly activities
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**Creative and Innovative**

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

• Evaluate different methods for determining evolutionary relationships
• Classify vertebrate behaviours to functional roles and interactions at community levels
• Communicate scientific information relevant to vertebrate evolution in oral and in written format

**Assessment tasks**

• Weekly activities
• Oz Vertebrate Evolution
• Prac Report