

COURSE DETAIL

VERTEBRATE DIVERSITY & FUNCTIONAL BIOLOGY

Country

South Africa

Host Institution

University of Cape Town

Program(s)

University of Cape Town

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Biological Sciences

UCEAP Course Number

110

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

VERTEBRATE DIVERSITY & FUNCTIONAL BIOLOGY

UCEAP Transcript Title

VERT DIV& FUNCT BIO

UCEAP Quarter Units

8.00

UCEAP Semester Units

5.30

Course Description

This course begins with an overview of the evolution, characteristics, diversity, morphology, and life histories of the different craniate classes, paying particular attention to adaptations underlying the success of the vertebrates. Distinctive or advanced biological features of each group are highlighted, and their ecological/economic importance briefly considered. The rest of the course comprises integrative, cross-taxonomic modules on the functional biology of vertebrates, notably locomotion, sensory systems, metabolism, homeostasis and behavior. The course includes a strong practical component to demonstrate the links between form and function; as well as a 4-day compulsory field camp during which students are trained in methods for studying the diversity, ecology and behavior of selected vertebrate groups. Attendance is compulsory for all lectures and practicals. DP requirements: Completion of at least 70% of deliverables (tests, practicals, project report), including at least one class test and the project report; attendance of practicals; minimum of 40% for the class record. Assessment: A 3-hour theory examination written in June, with subminimum of 40%, will count 50% of the course mark. Coursework marks will be allocated as follows: practical tests (three deliverables) count 15%, project report based on projects counts 15%, two class tests together count 20%. Course entry requirements: BIO1000F/H, BIO1004S.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

BIO2015F

Host Institution Course Title

VERTEBRATE DIVERSITY & FUNCTIONAL BIOLOGY

Host Institution Course Details

<https://www.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/media/documents/2026-sci-handbook-11-...>

Host Institution Campus

University of Cape Town

Host Institution Faculty

Science

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Biology

Course Last Reviewed

2025-2026

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