

Instructor, **Dr. T.A. Jenssen**; Office, **4104 Derring Hall**; Phone, **231-6246**; e-mail, **tjenssen@vt.edu**.

Office Hours **2-5 Tu-Th** and **By Appointment**.

Textbook, Hickman, Roberts, & Larson. 2003. Animal Diversity (3rd Ed.). McGraw Hill Publ., Boston.

The textbook supports information links and study aids (e.g., flash cards)  
See: <http://www.mhhe.com/biosci/pae/zoology/animaldiversity/>

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**Course Objectives:** Provide the general characteristics and phylogeny (evolutionary history) for the major animal groups, emphasizing their patterns of functional morphology and ecological adaptations.

**Honor System:** Honor system is in effect, and states that a student who either **provides** or **takes** answers violates the honor code.

**Class Attendance:** Each student is expected to follow university policy, meeting every scheduled lecture session

**Grading:** Grades will not be assigned by traditional percentage categories. Each semester, the tests and group of students are different, and it is naïve to presume that student performance can be anticipated and fairly represented by a pre-existing scale. Therefore, **t-scores** will be used to “curve” all tests. I will review each test to remove “poor” questions by using the Test Services Reliability Coefficient for each question.

Grade determinations will be made after the Final Exam, and will take into consideration student improvement. Therefore, each student should track her/his position on each posted test result. If performance is less than expected, see me and I will attempt to provide suggestions for improvement.

**Have a good semester**, and here’s to knowing more about those animals with whom we share the planet.