

# BISC 349, Biology of Sharks and Their Relatives

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This class will entail recorded lectures that will be posted to *youtube* for you to review, study, memorize, etc. prior to exams. You will also be assigned readings and some will be provided either as an internet link or will be posted to blackboard. Be sure to read those papers and read the book.

DATE	TOPIC
Aug 25	Introduction: Sharks in culture; characteristics; basic anatomy
Aug 27	Introduction: Chondrichthyes, Systematics
Sep 01	Diversity
Sep 03	Holocephali
Sep 08	Batoidea, (skates, rays, sawfish)
Sep 10	Batoidea (skates, rays, sawfish)
Sep 15	Shark survey
Sep 17	Shark survey
Sep 22	<b>ON-LINE TEST 1</b>
Sep 24	Natural history of sharks
Sep 29	Swimming in elasmobranchs
Oct 01	Buoyancy
Oct 06	Respiration, circulatory system ( <b>On-Line Identification Quiz</b> )
Oct 08	Reproduction
Oct 13	Food, feeding, bite force
Oct 15	Age determination and growth
Oct 20	Warm-bodied sharks
Oct 22	<b>ON-LINE TEST 2</b>
Oct 27	Osmoregulation and stress
Oct 29	Osmoregulation, freshwater sharks
Nov 03	Sensory systems
Nov 05	Sensory systems
Nov 10	Fishery landings
Nov 12	Shark conservation
Nov 17	Shark attack

**ON-LINE FINAL EXAM- MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 8:00 AM**

**Testing** All tests will be administered on-line. Tests will be provided to all students at the same time and exams have to be completed within a set time limit. For instance, you will have 1 hour and 15 minutes for an exam and the system will submit your exam when the time is up whether you are finished or not. YOU CANNOT COLLABORATE WITH OTHER STUDENTS WHEN TAKING AN EXAM. THE EXAMS ARE TO BE YOUR WORK ALONE.

**Identification Quiz- 10%, Test 1- 30%, Test 2- 30%, Final Exam (not comprehensive)- 30%**  
**Book highly recommended** *Sharks, Skates and Rays of the Gulf of Mexico* by Glenn R. Parsons. This is not a required book for this class. However, you will need this book for the Identification Quiz that you will take. In addition, there may be extra credit questions on the exam concerning topics that are covered in the book. Finally, I will lecture on topics that appear in the book. Reading that information in the book will help you to recall it.

**Learning Outcomes/Objectives** In this course I intend to inform the student concerning the basic biology of sharks, skates, and rays. This will include diversity, physiology, biology and conservation of these animals.

**Attendance/Participation** You are expected to review all lectures well in advance of the exams. The youtube channel where I post lectures is set up to record who logs onto the channel and how much of the lecture you actually view. I will check to see who is logging in and how much time you are spending. This is how I will record your class participation. Participation is important to you if I have to make a decision about your particular grade in the class, i.e. it can be important when your average is close to the next higher grade in the class.

## Wuhan Virus Policies

- Properly worn face coverings or face masks are required inside all University buildings. Face-to-face sessions will not proceed unless all present have properly worn face coverings or face masks. (Students who have a diagnosed health concern which interferes with the wearing of face coverings or face masks may contact the Student Disability Services (SDS) Office to seek a University-approved accommodation. Please [contact SDS](https://sds.olemiss.edu/) at <https://sds.olemiss.edu/> for more information.)

- Students and faculty must complete the daily symptom checker before any face-to-face class meeting.

- Students and faculty must quarantine for 14 days if they have a positive COVID-19 test, possible virus exposure, or display any symptoms related to COVID-19.

- Students with COVID-19 should seek medical attention at the Student Health Center and contact their instructor to let them know that they are sick, quarantined, or have some other health-related absence.

- If students test positive for COVID-19 at any health care facility, they must contact the Student Health Center at 662-915-7274. (Faculty and staff should contact the Employees Health Service at 662-915-6550.) University Health Services will coordinate contact tracing to lessen the likelihood of spread.

- Upon entering the classroom, students and instructors should use provided cleaning supplies to wipe down the surfaces that they will touch during the class.

- Students have been informed of the COVID-19 guidelines for the school year (including face covering, social distancing, hand hygiene, etc.); therefore, students will not be allowed in classroom spaces when they are out of compliance with these guidelines.

- The University's Academic Conduct and Discipline Policy states that "disorderly behavior that disrupts the academic environment violates the standard of fair access to the academic experience." Failure to adhere to health requirements during the COVID-19 emergency will be deemed as disruptive to the classroom and will be enforced following the Academic Conduct and Discipline procedures.

- The University of Mississippi has adopted a tiered disciplinary protocol for non-adherence to COVID-19 health requirements. This disciplinary protocol is maintained by the [Office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct](https://conflictresolution.olemiss.edu/) (<https://conflictresolution.olemiss.edu/>).

Students attending the virtual component of hybrid, remote, or online courses are subject to the same attendance policy and procedures as traditional students. However, participation is defined in a different manner. The University's "Attendance Policy for Online Education" states: "Student attendance in online courses is defined as active participation in the course as described in the individual course syllabus." If students fail to meet online attendance requirements as stated in the syllabus, they will be given an absence.

Students are encouraged to visit the [University's Keep Learning site](https://olemiss.edu/keeplearning/) (<https://olemiss.edu/keeplearning/>) to access information and resources related to COVID-19 support. The site provides links to University student services to facilitate and support learning.

•Students with diagnosed health concerns that may affect their compliance with COVID-19 health requirements should contact [UM's Student Disability Services \(SDS\) Office](https://sds.olemiss.edu) (<https://sds.olemiss.edu>) to see if they are eligible for an SDS accommodation as soon as possible.