



COURSE DATASHEET

Semester:	2012/13/2
Course:	Zootaxonomy practice II.
Code:	VEMKLIK232R
Responsible department:	Department of Limnology
Department code:	MKLI
Responsible instructor:	Gábor László Seress

Course objectives:

During the course students will get acquainted with the vertebrates connected to mainly watery and waterfront ecosystems in Hungary. Students will come to know the brief evolutionary origin of each greater taxa, the recognition of vertebrate species which are important and/or abundant in Hungary, they will learn these species' main characteristics, taxonomy, behavioural properties, conservation significance and status and their basic role in ecosystems. We are concerning with the whole amphibian and reptile fauna of Hungary and some selected taxa of birds and mammals in details. Fishes are not included in the course's curriculum.

Course content:

1. Amphibians in danger: what are the main factors threatening amphibians throughout the world? General characterization of amphibians. 2. Evolution of amphibians. Detailed review of Hungary's amphibian species. 3. Evolution of reptiles. General characterization of reptiles. 4. Detailed review of Hungary's reptile species I. 5. Detailed review of Hungary's reptile species II. Student presentation: review of an endangered reptile species conservation programme. 6. Written test I. 7. Evolution of birds. General characterization of birds. 8. Detailed review of Hungary's bird species I. Student presentation: review of an endangered bird species conservation programme. 9. Detailed review of Hungary's bird species II. 10. Detailed review of Hungary's bird species III. Student presentation: review of an endangered bird species conservation programme. 11. Written test II. 12. Evolution of mammals. General characterization of mammals. Detailed review of Hungary's mammal species I. 13. Detailed review of Hungary's mammal species II. 14. Review of bird migration and migration routes. 15. Written test III.

Requirements, evaluation and grading:

Visiting the course is necessary, two missings are acceptable during the semester all together. Final rating is derived from the mean of the results of tests written during the semester. Students who do voluntary oral presentation during the semester get an extra grade which is also included to the final rating. The minimum requirement in each of the written tests is at least 50%. Rewriting of a written test because of inadequate result (below 50%) or absence is possible on the last week of the semester but only in the case of one written test.

Required and recommended readings:

Papp L. (szerk.) 1996. Zootaxonómia. Scientia K., Budapest. Varga, Z. 1996. Állatismeret, 2. kiadás. Nemzeti Tankönyvkiadó, Budapest. Todd, F.S. 1996. Natural history of the waterfowl. Ibis Publishing, Vista, California.