

Main course information	
Academic subject	Vertebrate Zoology
Degree course	Science of Nature II Level
Degree class	LM-60 - LM75
ECTS credits (CFU)	4
Compulsory attendance	Yes
Teaching language	Italian
Academic Year	2019/2020

Docente responsabile	
Name & SURNAME	Giovanni SCILLITANI
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Tutorial time/day	Monday 11:30-13:30, Wednesday 11:30-13:30, Friday 11:30 – 13:30. Appointment by e-mail is suggested

Course details	Pass-fail exam/Exam with mark out of 30	SSD code	Type of class
	Exam with mark out of 30	BIO/06	Lecture/workshop

Teaching schedule	Year	Semester
	II	I

Modalità erogazione	CFU/ECTS	Lessons (hours)	CFU/ECTS lab	Lab hours	CFU/ECTS tutorial/workshop	Tutorial/workshop hours	CFU/ECTS field trip	Field trip Hours
	4	32	0	0	0	0	0	0

Time management	Total hours	Teaching hours	Self-study hours
	120	32	88

Academic Calendar	First lesson	Final lesson
	October 2019	January 2020

Syllabus	
Course entry requirements	Basic knowledge of Zoology and Vertebrate Biology
Expected learning outcomes (according to Dublin Descriptors) (it is recommended that they are congruent with the learning outcomes contained in A4a, A4b, A4c tables of the SUA-CdS)	
<i>Knowledge and understanding</i>	Acquisition of theoretical and operational skills about the biology and adaptation of vertebrates, with reference to those included in the fauna of Italy and those traits with major relations to conservation. These skills will be acquired thanks to the attendance of theoretical lessons and individual study. Field activities will be planned in conjunction with other courses.
<i>Applying knowledge and understanding</i>	Acquisition of operational skills useful for data collecting and planning of researches and projects in the field of animal conservation.
<i>Making informed judgements and choices</i>	Acquisition of autonomy in areas related to the evaluation and planning of actions for conservation including impact on aspects of the socio-economic system.
<i>Communicating knowledge and understanding</i>	Acquisition of the appropriate vocabulary and terminology related to vertebrate zoology to be able to understand any further information through a specific bibliography and prepare a relation or speech in a conservation context.
<i>Capacities to continue learning</i>	Acquisition of the ability to investigate and read further information about the discipline with a critical spirit, through the consultation of texts and databases. Acquisition of the

	ability to relate knowledge to various contexts in the field of natural history and conservation sciences.
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Syllabus	
Course content	Vertebrates: systematic and ecological aspects. Primarily aquatic vertebrates: jawless, cartilaginous and bony fishes. Adaptation to aquatic life. Feeding strategies and defense. Reproductive strategies and life cycles. Territorial, social and migratory behaviors. The ichthyofauna of Italy: study and conservation methods. Terrestrial ectotherms: amphibians and reptiles. Adaptation to terrestrial life. Secondary adaptation to aquatic life. Feeding strategies and defense. Reproductive strategies and life cycles. Territorial, social and migratory behaviors. The herpetofauna of Italy: study and conservation methods. Terrestrial endotherms: birds and mammals. Bird flight mechanics. Bird behavior: territoriality, sociality, migrations. Bird reproduction: courtship, vocalizations, mating, nesting, parental care. The ornithofauna of Italy: study and conservation methods. Mammals locomotion: terrestrial, flight, swimming. Feeding strategies. Territorial, social and migratory behaviors. Reproductive strategies: courtship, viviparity, lactation, parental care. The theriofauna of Italy: study and conservation methods.
Course books/Bibliography	Pough F.H. Janis C.M., Heiser J.B. Zoologia dei vertebrati. Pearson, Milano
Notes	
Teaching methods	Lectures with the use of PowerPoint
Assessment methods (indicate at least the type written, oral, other)	Oral exam.
Evaluation criteria (Explain for each expected learning outcome what a student has to know, or is able to do, and how many levels of achievement there are	<p><i>Knowledge and understanding:</i> students should demonstrate good knowledge about each topic and the ability of connecting the different parts of the program. Memorizing without understanding is meaningless.</p> <p><i>Applying knowledge and understanding/ Making informed judgements and choices:</i> appropriate descriptions apart, students should focus about biological aspects in relation to conservation aspects. They should be able to plan a study on a given faunal assemblage for conservation purposes.</p> <p><i>Communicating knowledge and understanding</i> students should use correct technical terms in describing structures and processes and explain them when required. Simple examples of conservation planning will be required. drawings made during the examination to better explain the topics are appreciated.</p> <p><i>Capacities to continue learning:</i> although the suggested textbooks cover the topics as much as possible, research and environmental legislation is always in progress so some updates will be given during the lessons. The ability of students to integrate these contents with those from the textbooks will be evaluated.</p>
Further information	