

LIFE AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES
Student Learning Outcome Alignment Form

Course Prefix/Number: BIOL 1313

Course Title: General Zoology

Core Objective	Course SLO	General Learning Activities	Assessment
Critical Thinking Skills	(SLO #5)Identify the major phyla of life with an emphasis on animals, including the basis for classification, structural and physiological adaptations, evolutionary history, and ecological significance.	Lab activity	See attached rubric
Communication Skills	(SLO #1)Compare and contrast the structures, reproduction, and characteristics of animals.	Exam essay question	See attached rubric
Empirical & Quantitative Skills	(SLO #15)Communicate effectively the results of scientific investigations.	Lab write up	See attached rubric

Teamwork	(SLO #13)Apply scientific reasoning to investigate questions and utilize scientific tools such as microscopes and laboratory equipment to collect and analyze data.	Lab activity	See attached rubric
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CRITICAL THINKING VALUE RUBRIC

Adapted for Texarkana College from the AAC&U Critical Thinking VALUE Rubric

Definition

Critical thinking is a habit of mind characterized by the comprehensive exploration of issues, ideas, artifacts, and events before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion.

	Does Not Meet Any Expectations 1	Meets Few Expectations 2	Meets Expectations 3	Exceeds Some Expectations 4	Exceeds All Expectations 5
Explanation of Issues	Did not state issue.	Issue is stated without clarification or description.	Issue is stated but description leaves some terms undefined, ambiguities unexplored, boundaries undetermined and/or backgrounds unknown.	Issue is stated, described, and clarified so that understanding is not seriously impeded by omissions.	Issue is stated clearly and described comprehensively, delivering all relevant information necessary for full understanding.
Evidence	Does not identify the basic components of an issue	Information is taken from sources without any interpretation. Viewpoints of experts are taken as fact, without question	Information is taken from sources with some interpretation but not enough to develop a coherent analysis or synthesis.	Information is taken from sources with enough interpretation to develop a coherent analysis or synthesis.	Information is taken from sources with enough interpretation to develop a comprehensive analysis or synthesis.
Influence of Context and Assumptions	Did not show awareness of the issue.	Show an emerging awareness of present assumptions.	Questions some assumptions. Identifies relevant information when presenting a position.	Identifies own and others' assumptions and several relevant contexts when presenting a position.	Thoroughly analyzes own and others' assumptions and carefully evaluates the relevance of contexts when presenting a position.

Student's Position	Takes no position on issue	Specific position is stated but is simplistic and obvious.	Specific position acknowledges different sides of an issue.	Specific position takes into account the complexities of an issue. Others' points of view are acknowledged within position.	Specific position is imaginative. Limits of position acknowledged. Other points of view are synthesized.
Conclusions and Related Outcomes	Does not use previously learned information in new situations.	Conclusion is inconsistently tied to some of the information discussed; related outcomes are oversimplified.	Conclusion is logically tied to information; some related outcomes are identified.	Conclusion is logically tied to a range of information, including opposing viewpoints; related outcomes are identified clearly	Conclusions and related outcomes are logical and reflect student's informed evaluation and ability to place evidence and perspectives discussed in priority order

Communication RUBRIC

Adapted for Texarkana College from the AAC&U Critical Thinking VALUE Rubric and Making Learning Real

Definition

Written communication is the development and expression of ideas in writing.

Oral Communication is a prepared, purposeful presentation designed to increase knowledge, to foster understanding, or to promote change in the listeners' attitudes, values, beliefs, or behaviors.

Visual Communication is the use of images to persuade, entertain, inform, and enlighten an observing audience of products, ideas, and messages.

	Does Not Meet Any Expectations 1	Meets Few Expectations 2	Meets Expectations 3	Exceeds Some Expectations 4	Exceeds All Expectations 5
Quality of Information and Organization	Presentation lacks main points and related details. Information lacks connection to the presentation topic. Information is not organized.	Main points are not clear and lack significant detail. Some information is linked to the presentation topic. Information is loosely organized.	Main points are somewhat clear but could use more detail. Most information is linked to the presentation topic. Information is organized.	Main points are clear and detailed. Information is linked to presentation topic. Information is well organized.	Main points are very clear and very detailed. Information is directly linked to presentation topic. Information is very organized.
Nonverbal Communication	Speaker appears very uneasy and insecure. Speaker faces away from the audience or makes no eye contact. Speaker appears disengaged from the audience. Speaker uses few body motions or gestures or has gestures or movements that distract the audience.	Speaker appears uneasy and somewhat insecure. Speaker rarely faces the audience or makes eye contact. Speaker rarely appears to be engaging with the audience. Speaker uses few body motions or has gestures or movements that distract the audience..	Speaker appears generally at ease and confident. Speaker sometimes faces the audience and maintains eye contact. Speaker sometimes appears to be engaging with the audience. Speaker's body motions and gestures neither support nor detract from presentation.	Speaker appears fairly comfortable and confident. Speaker generally faces the audience and maintains good eye contact. Speaker generally appears to be engaging with the audience. Speaker uses body motions and gestures well.	Speaker appears very comfortable and confident. Speaker consistently faces the audience and maintains good eye contact. Speaker consistently appears to be engaging with the audience. Speaker uses body motions and gestures very effectively.
Quality of Verbal Communication	Speaker's voice is consistently too weak or too strong. Speaker fails to use inflections to emphasize key	Speaker's voice is frequently too weak or too strong. Speaker rarely uses inflections to emphasize key	Speaker's voice is generally steady strong and clear. Speaker sometimes uses inflections to emphasize key	Speaker's voice is steady, strong, and clear. Speaker often uses inflections to emphasize key points and	Speaker's voice is very confident, steady, strong, and clear. Speaker consistently uses inflections to emphasize

	points and create interest or often uses inflections inappropriately. Speaker's talking paces is consistently too slow or too fast.	points and create interest or speaker sometimes uses inflections inappropriately. Speaker's talking pace is often too slow or too fast.	points and create interest. Speaker's talking pace is appropriate.	create interest. Speaker's talking pace is mostly appropriate.	key points or to create interest. Speaker's talking pace is consistently appropriate.
Visual Tools	Visual aids demonstrate no creativity or clarity and are often difficult to read. Presentation is weakened by the visual tools.	Visual aids have limited creativity or clarity or are sometimes difficult to read. Presentation is not enhanced by the visual tools.	Visual aids are reasonably creative, clear, and easy to read. Presentation is sometimes enhanced by the visual tools.	Visual aids are usually creative, clear, and easy to read. Presentation is often enhanced by the visual tools.	Visual aids are very creative, clear, and easy to read. Presentation is consistently enhanced by the visual tools.
Appropriate Use of Vocabulary	Few or no terms are included in the presentation. May or may not be used appropriately. Lacks context.	Several terms are included in the presentation. May or may not be used appropriately. May lack context.	Most terms are included in the presentation. Generally used appropriately. Generally used in appropriate context.	All terms are included in the presentation. Used effectively. Used in context.	All terms are included in the presentation. Used in unique and creative ways. Used in context
Precision and Detail in Documents Produced	Written documents have numerous errors and lack detail. Little care taken in the production.	Documents may have some errors and show some detail. Some care has been taken in production.	Evident that written documents are correct and show a general attention to detail and accuracy. General care has been taken in production.	Clearly evident that written documents are correct, detailed and accurate. Care has been taken in production.	Documents are clear, well-constructed, accurate, and show attention to detail. Extra care has been taken in the production of written documents.
Overall Presentational Effectiveness	The presentation was weak and not effective.	The presentation was average and somewhat effective.	The presentation was good and effective.	The presentation was very good and effective.	The presentation was exceptional and extremely effective.

Empirical and Quantitative Skills RUBRIC

Adapted for Texarkana College from the AAC&U Critical Thinking VALUE Rubric

Definition

The ability to formulate an inquiry that is scientific or mathematical in nature, and then manipulate and analyze numerical data and/or follow an investigative process using empirical and/or quantitative reasoning to satisfy the inquiry and create informed conclusions.

	Does Not Meet Any Expectations 1	Meets Few Expectations 2	Meets Expectations 3	Exceeds Some Expectations 4	Exceeds All Expectations 5
Identification	The purpose, components, and variables of the investigation/project are not identified.	The purpose, components, and variables of the investigation/project are somewhat identified.	The purpose, components, and variables of the investigation/project are mostly identified	The purpose, components, and variables of the investigation/project are clearly identified..	The purpose, components, and variables of the investigation/project are clearly identified.
Assimilation	The information that is required for an analysis of all investigative components is not evident. If applicable, values are incorrectly translated into variables and no necessary formulas are present.	The information that is required for an analysis of all investigative components is somewhat evident. If applicable, values are incorrectly translated into variables and some necessary formulas are present.	The information that is required for an analysis of all investigative components is mostly evident. If applicable, some values are correctly translated into variables and most necessary formulas are present.	The information that is required for an analysis of all investigative components is evident. If applicable, most values are correctly translated into variables and all necessary formulas are present.	The information that is required for an analysis of all investigative components is clearly evident. If applicable, values are correctly translated into variables and all necessary formulas are present.
Analysis	Most investigative or quantitative components are not scrutinized. The steps followed are illogical	Some investigative or quantitative components are scrutinized. Some steps followed are	All investigative or quantitative components are somewhat scrutinized. The steps followed are	All investigative or quantitative components are scrutinized. The steps followed are logical and	All investigative or quantitative components are methodically scrutinized. The steps

	and/or irrelevant to the desired result. The proper tools/ technology were not used and/or integrated into the final product. Any notation is not consistent and not defined.	somewhat logical and relevant to the desired result. The proper tools/ technology were somewhat used and not integrated into the final product. Any notation is somewhat consistent but not defined.	mostly logical and relevant to the desired result. The proper tools/ technology were mostly used and somewhat integrated into the final product. Any notation is mostly consistent and defined.	relevant to the desired result. The proper tools/ technology were used and mostly integrated into the final product. Any notation is consistent and well defined.	followed are logical and relevant to the desired result. The proper tools/ technology were used and well integrated into the final product. Any notation is consistent and well defined.
Presentation	A summary of the analysis is either inadequately presented or not presented at all. The presented information is mostly incorrect, and/or of poor quality, and/or the terminology/figures are inaccurate and/or hard to understand. Few or no visual representations of evidence are acceptably scaled/ represent the analysis findings.	A partial summary of the analysis is presented. The presented information is somewhat correct, of adequate quality, and the terminology/figures are somewhat accurate and relatively easy to understand. Some visual representations of evidence are acceptably scaled and represent the analysis findings.	A summary of the analysis is presented. The presented information is mostly correct, of good quality, and the terminology/figures are mostly accurate and easy to understand. Most visual representations of evidence are acceptably scaled and represent the analysis findings.	A good summary of the analysis is presented. The presented information is correct, of good quality, and the terminology/figures are accurate and easy to understand. Most visual representations of evidence are well-scaled and/or well represent the analysis findings..	A concise summary of the analysis is presented. The presented information is correct, of high quality, and the terminology/figures are accurate and easy to understand. All visual representations of evidence are well-scaled and well represent the analysis findings.
Application	The integration does not include all steps of the investigation and does not lead to an accurate, nor complete conclusion that relates to the initial investigative argument.	The integration of most steps of the investigation lead to a somewhat accurate, partially complete conclusion that is relative to the initial investigative statement.	The coherent integration of most steps of the investigation lead to an accurate, mostly complete, acceptable conclusion that is relative to the initial investigative statement.	The coherent integration of all steps of the investigation lead to an accurate, mostly complete, relevant conclusion that is relative to the initial investigative statement.	The coherent integration of all steps of the investigation lead to an accurate, complete, relevant conclusion that is relative to the initial investigative statement.

Teamwork Skills RUBRIC

Adapted for Texarkana College from the AAC&U Critical Thinking VALUE Rubric

Definition

Teamwork is behaviors under the control of individual team members, their manner of interacting with others on team, and the quantity and quality of contributions they make to team discussions.

	Does Not Meet Any Expectations 1	Meets Few Expectations 2	Meets Expectations 3	Exceeds Some Expectations 4	Exceeds All Expectations 5
Contributes to Team Meetings	Does not collect any relevant information; no useful suggestions to address team's needs;	Shares ideas but does not advance the work of the group.	Offers new suggestions to advance the work of the group	Offers alternative solutions or courses of action that build on the ideas of others.	Helps the group move forward by articulating the merits of alternative ideas or proposals
Facilitates the Contributions of Team Members	Often argues with team mates; doesn't let anyone else talk; occasional personal attacks and "put-downs"; wants to have things done his way and does not listen to alternate approaches;	Engages group by taking turns and listening to others without interrupting.	Engages group by restating the views of other members and/or asking questions for clarification.	Engages group by constructively building upon or synthesizing the contributions of others..	Engages group by both constructively building upon and synthesizing the contributions of others as well as noticing when someone is not participating and inviting him/her to engage.
Individual Contributions Outside of Team Meetings	Completes no assigned tasks outside of team meetings.	Completes some assigned tasks by deadline.	Completes all assigned tasks by deadline; work accomplished advances the project.	Completes all assigned tasks by deadline; work accomplished and is thorough, comprehensive, and advances the project.	Completes all assigned tasks by deadline; work accomplished is thorough, comprehensive, and advances the project. Proactively helps other team members complete their assigned tasks to a similar level of excellence.
Fosters Constructive Team Climate	Is argumentative and does not work with the team.	Supports a constructive group climate by treating other members respectfully.	Supports a constructive group climate by treating other members respectfully and conveying a positive attitude about the group and its work.	Supports a constructive group climate by treating other members respectfully, conveying a positive attitude about the group and its work, and motivating other group members.	Supports a constructive group climate by treating other members respectfully, conveying a positive attitude about the group and its work, motivating other group members, and providing

					assistance to group members.
Responds to Conflict	Is not present enough to engage in conflict.	Passively accepts alternate viewpoints/ideas/opinions.	Redirects focus toward common ground, toward task at hand (away from conflict)..	Identifies and acknowledges conflict and stays engaged with it.	Addresses conflict directly and helps to manage/resolve it in a way that strengthens overall group cohesiveness.