



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TORINO

ID

VP149\_DIP\_BIOS

## Visiting Professor Program Academic year 2022/2023

**TEACHING COMMITMENT:** 16 hours

### COURSE TITLE

**Herpetology**

### TEACHING PERIOD

2nd term

### SCIENTIFIC AREA

Herpetology

### LANGUAGE USED TO TEACH

English / Italian

### COURSE SUMMARY

General introduction to the amphibians and reptiles. Systematics, basic morphological characters, skeletal morphology and origin (comparison of morphological/palaeontological and molecular proxies) of: Lissamphibia (Apoda, Urodela, Anura), Testudines, Crocodylia, and Lepidosauria (Rhynchocephalia, "Lacertilia", Amphisbaenia, Serpentes). Generalities of physiology and reproduction strategies. Leap and fossorial strategies. Italian herpetofauna. Conservation issues.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the course deal with basic information about:

- Systematics, origin and evolution of the major extant groups of amphibians and reptiles Apoda, Urodela, Anura, Testudines, Crocodylia, and Lepidosauria;
- Major morphological traits of these groups, with special reference to the skeletal system that will allow us to discuss the fossil record that testifies their origin and evolution;
- Physiology and reproduction;
- Italian herpetofauna;
- How to search for amphibians and reptiles in the field;
- Problems of conservation of the herpetofauna.

### **TUTORSHIP ACTIVITIES**

N/A

### **LAB ACTIVITIES**

Several excursions in Italy and possibly abroad are an important element of the course.

### **OTHER ACTIVITIES BESIDES THE COURSE**

N/A

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### **VISITING PROFESSOR PROFILE**

Relevant experience and scientific production in the field of Herpetology with special reference to biogeography and/or ecology and/or ethology.

### **CONTACT PERSON AT THE DEPARTMENT**

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