Direzione Ricerca,
Innovazione e
Internazionalizzazione

UNIVERSITÀ
DI TORINO

ID

VP_008_BIOS

Visiting Professor Program
Academic Year 2025/2026

TEACHING COMMITMENT: **12 hours**

COURSE TITLE

Herpetology

TEACHING PERIOD

II semester

SCIENTIFIC AREA

Paleontology and Paleoecology

LANGUAGE USED TO TEACH

English

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. Sampling techniques. 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 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.

OTHER ACTIVITIES BESIDE THE COURSE

Other activities could be represented by seminars on the following topics: cladistic analysis in Palaeontology, paleontological fieldwork, scientific news in the media, how to communicate science to non-specialists.

VISITING PROFESSOR PROFILE

Since the Visiting Professor should take care of presenting the fossil evidence supporting the origin and evolution of the extant clades of amphibians and reptiles, it is assumed that the ideal candidate has a background in teaching vertebrate skeletal morphology, comparative anatomy, and palaeontology, and at the same time does research (with both a descriptive and analytical approach) on the evolution of at least some of the extant clades.

CONTACT REFERENT

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