Topics for 9 March 2023 GVZ lecture at UNM duck pond

Turtles

Phylogeny

 Turtles within vertebrates

 Cryptodira/Pleurodira within turtles

 Testudines as a Node-based name for turtles

Synapomorphies for Testudines

 Lack teeth

 Limb girdles inside ribs

 Shell

Turtle Shell

 Carapace, plastron

 'Functions'

 Selection

 Breathing

 Usual

 Skin

 Butt

 Anaerobic

 Freeze tolerance

Turtle traits

 Oviparous

 Usually TSD

 Internal fertilization

 No parental care

 Long-lived, long to maturity

Diversity

 Chelonidae (sea turtles)

 Chelydridae (snapping turtles)

 Trionychidae (softshell turtle)

 Testudinide (tortoises)

 Emydidae (box turtles, water turtles, others…)

 Species in the UNM duck pond

Conservation

 Threats to turtles