Course Objectives:
1) This course serves as an introduction to mammalian anatomy using cat as the principal example and with correlates to humans. This is an all-lab course (no lecture). The course will deal primarily with gross anatomy of the cat.
2) Much of the material will be presented and discussed in Spanish. Many anatomical terms are rooted in Latin and anatomical descriptors are essentially the same in Spanish as they are in English. Professor Blystone has a reading knowledge of Spanish but is not overly conversational. Mr. David Lopez, the co-instructor, is bilingual and has extensive training in animal handling. Additionally three bilingual students will be available to the course through the auspices of the Kline Grant.
3) This course also serves as an experiment in establishing a community of biology scholars who can explore biology in two languages. A longer-range goal is to provide support for entering biology students who may be bicultural and bilingual.

Learning resources:
After extensive searching only one cat anatomy text in Spanish has been located and it is a translation of a 1969 lab manual prepared at USC. As a class, we have an opportunity of writing our own Cat Anatomy text in Spanish, either as a translation or perhaps new. The text material listed below are all available at Amazon.com

*Cat Anatomy* – 52 flash cards from Bryan Edwards Publishing
A useful series of flash cards that focus mainly on the skeleton and muscles of cat. The images are line drawings.

*CAT: PhotoManual & Dissection Guide* from Square One Education Guides
A very complete lab dissection manual on the cat. Has both line drawings and black and white photographs. The photographs are dated and could be of higher quality. We will follow the organization of the manual is this course. You should purchase this manual.

*Cat Dissection: A Laboratory Guide* 2nd edition from Wiley
A very concise, well-done lab manual. The 48-page text is divided into seven dissection sessions. The excellent color photographs are accompanied by interpretive line drawings.
If Allen and Harper could be combined with Bohensky, AND do it in Spanish, that would be an interesting project and product.

The manual is all line drawings. It is very clearly laid out, yet, sometimes when one compares the actual cat with the art work, the correlation can be difficult. I like the text and it is inexpensive.

_English/Spanish Anatomical Chart Desktop Collection_
Anatomical Chart Company 2006 ISBN 1-587 799-808 $27.77
This publication is simply beautiful. It is a collection of color line-drawn charts with numerous labels. The labels are very small since the charts were originally designed to be large wall posters. The spiral-bound text is organized where the left side chart is in English and the right side chart is in Spanish.

_Spanish-English English-Spanish Medical Dictionary_, 3rd edition – Lippincott Williams & Wilkins
Your basic medical dictionary.

Cat Anatomy Web sites:
You may find these web sites useful

Esqueleto del gato – a simple clear diagram of the basic cat skeleton – El Diccionario Visual
http://www.infovisual.info/02/067_es.html

Felinia. A composite site that has French, English, and Spanish connections. It is a well done site that is in Spanish. We will refer to this site often.
http://www.webpersonal.net/felinia/fisiointro.htm

Virtual Cat Dissection. This English site is used in the Felinia site. The origin is from a branch campus of Penn State.
http://bio.bd.psu.edu/cat/

An interesting blog site in Spanish dealing with cat movement.
http://www.blogodisea.com/gatos-anatomia-esqueleto/animales-plantas/

Purina cat chow site that talks about health kitties.
Safety:
The dissection specimens have been preserved in formaldehyde-based chemicals. These chemicals can be harmful to the skin, eyes, and respiratory system. You must use precautions when working with the specimens. Work in well-lighted and well-ventilated environments. Minimize skin contact with the specimen by wearing disposable gloves. Do not rub face or eyes while wearing the gloves. A lab coat protects clothes from the specimen.

Do not eat or drink in the lab. Preservatives are dangerous chemicals.

When you start a dissection session, lay out your work area carefully. Put everything in a proper place. Be obsessive about it. Have paper towels nearby. Know where a first-aid kit is located in case of cuts. When through, clean the work area very carefully.

As you work, you will refer to written text material or perhaps a computer screen. Take precautions not to impregnate paper or computer keyboards with preservative materials from your gloves. This is not easy to do and will take some effort to resolve. Some people use plastic wrap to place over reference materials when dissecting... or some people will make temporary copies of reference material that can be disposed of after a dissection session. A stand to hold a lab manual upright is useful.

Some people (not many) have allergies to latex gloves. There are alternatives. If necessary they can be provided.

“Don’t run with scissors.” You are working with sharp, pointed dissection equipment that is designed to take apart flesh, muscle, skin, bones, and the like. The same equipment can take apart your skin, etc. Be careful, very careful. Always clean and store equipment properly at the end of a lab session.

Dispose of used gloves properly. Dispose of anatomical parts (dissected parts, resected fat, for example) in a proper fashion. Always bag your specimens properly when storing for future use. Clean, clean, clean.

Respect your specimen. The cat was a living creature before it became a specimen for your study. Don’t play with it. Some people act silly when they have to dissect a familiar object. In a fashion, silliness is a way to deal with tension. Some people get very nervous about cutting a formally living animal.

No visitors to the lab. This visitation policy is out of respect to the animal and to other people. This is serious business. There are individuals, who through sincere conviction, do not want you to dissect any animal. Please know that these cats were obtained through legal sources and were not street-caught “to make a buck.” Again, no visitors to the lab. Keep the lab door closed when specimens are out.
Course mechanics:
This is a small class with a great deal of help around. Blystone and Lopez will be constantly quizzing you about the material. During the semester, there will be two formal practical exams. Through daily work and the two practicals, your grade will be determined.

We will adhere to the University Honor Code. Class attendance is required. Please plan to be in the lab for the full period each time. You must follow the safety rules of the lab and if not, you will be withdrawn from the course.

A tentative schedule follows: