

University of North Texas at Dallas
Spring 2015
SYLLABUS

BIOL 5090 : Animal Behavior 3Hrs			
Department of	Health and Life Sciences	Division of	Liberal Arts and Sciences
Instructor Name:	Dr. Donna Hamilton		
Office Location:	DAL2 250		
Office Phone:	972-338-1522		
Email Address:	Donna.hamilton@untDallas.edu		
Office Hours:	MW 10-11:30; TR 8:00-9:00		
Virtual Office Hours:	N/A		
Classroom Location:	Building 1 Room 304		
Class Meeting Days & Times:	W 6pm- 7:20pm		
Course Catalog Description:	A comparative study of animal behavior, its evolution, genetic foundations, expression through neurophysiological mechanisms, function in the environment and adaptive role during evolutionary history.		
Prerequisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Required Text:	<i>Animal Behavior: An evolutionary approach; 10th ed; John Alcock</i> <i>Exploring Animal Behavior: Readings from American Scientist; 6th ed.; Paul Sherman</i>		
Recommended Text and References:			
Access to Learning Resources:	UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 338-1616; web: http://www.untDallas.edu/our-campus/library UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652; e-mail: 1012mgr@fheg.follett.com		
Course Goals or Overview:			
	Students will engage in a comparative study of animal behavior. They will be able to discuss and demonstrate content mastery in its evolution, genetic foundations, expression through neurophysiological mechanisms, function in the environment and adaptive role during evolutionary history.		
Student Learning Objectives:			
1	Understand the genetic and evolutionary foundations of animal behavior.		
2	Practice skills in scientific reasoning and experimental design and demonstrate a comprehension of the current journal literature in animal behavior.		
3	Develop skills in science writing for pedagogical uses in the form of case studies..		
4	Practice and demonstrate competence of Common Core Objectives including critical thinking skills, communication skills, empirical and quantitative skills and teamwork		

Course Outline

This course is a hybrid course with a significant amount of responsibilities online so you must have reliable access to a computer and to the internet.

AB = *Animal Behavior: An evolutionary approach.*

EAB = *Exploring Animal Behavior; Readings from American Scientist.*

This **schedule is subject to change** by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated in class and/or via Blackboard.

AB	EAB	Timeline	Other Online Deadlines	Face to Face Deadlines
1: An Introduction to Animal Behavior	Conduct, Misconduct and Structure of Science	Week of 1/21/2015	HW 1	
2: Behavioral Ecology and the Evolution of Altruism	I: Why Male Ground Squirrels Disperse	Week of 1/28/2015	HW 2	Case Study Proposal
3: The Evolution of Social Behavior	I: Why Ravens Share	Week of 2/4/2015	HW 3	
4: The Evolution of Communication	II: Naked Mole Rats	Week of 2/11/2015	HW 4	Case Study Outline
Exam 1	Exam 1	Week of 2/18/2015		Exam 1
5: Avoiding Predators and Finding Food	VI: Marking Loons, Making Progress	Week of 2/25/2015	HW 5	
6: The Evolution of Habitat Selection, Territoriality and Migration	None	Week of 3/4/2015	Ethogram Activity	
7: The Evolution of Reproductive Behavior	IV: Why do Bower Birds Build Bowers?	Week of 3/11/2015	HW 6	Case Study Draft
	Spring Break	Week of 3/18/2015	HW 7	
8: The Evolution of Mating Systems	III: Mating Behavior and Hermaphroditism in Coral Reef Fishes	Week of 3/25/2015	HW 8	
Exam 2	Exam 2	Week of 4/1/2015		Exam 2
9: The Evolution of Parental Care	VI: Vocal Matching in Animals	Week of 4/8/2015	HW 9	Case Study Reviews
10: Proximate and Ultimate Causes of Behavior	None	Week of 4/15/2015	Trail Camera Activity	Case Study Reviews
11: The Development of Behavior	IV: Early Canid Domestication – the Fox Farm Experiment	Week of 4/22/2015	HW 10	
12: Evolution, Nervous Systems and Behaviors	V: From Society to Genes with the Honey Bee	Week of 4/29/2015	HW 11	
Exam 3	Exam 3	Week of 5/4/2015	HW 12	Case Study Final Exam 3

Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

Online Discussion Board – *Each week there will be a class discussion on the Blackboard forum over a topic of animal behavior*

Online Homework – *Each reading from EAB will be accompanied by homework questions to be turned in through Blackboard only – no hard copies will be accepted.*

Online Ethogram activity – *This introduction to ethograms and how to construct them is to be turned in through Blackboard only – no hard copies will be accepted.*

Online Trail Camera Activity – *This analysis of camera trap data is to be turned in through Blackboard only – no hard copies will be accepted.*

Exams – *All three exams will be during our in-class meeting and will be a combination of short answer and essay questions over the assigned chapters from AB.*

Case Study – *Each student will compose a case study over a topic of Animal Behavior that is suitable for submission for online publication*

Class Participation – *weekly attendance and participation in class discussions*

Grading Matrix:

Instrument	Value (points or percentages)	Total
Online Discussion Board	13 @ 10 each	130
Online Homework	12 @ 10 pts each	120
Online Ethogram Activity	50	50
Online Trail Camera Activity	50	50
Exams	3 @ 100 each	300
Case Study Proposal	20	50
Case Study Draft	30	150
Case Study Reviews	2@25 each	50
Case Study Final	100	100
Total:		1000

Grade Determination:

A = 1000 – 900 pts; i.e. 90% or better

B = 899 – 800 pts; i.e. 80 – 89 %

C = 799 -- 700 pts; i.e. 70 – 79 %

D = 699 – 600 pts; i.e. 60 – 69 %

F = 599 pts or below; i.e. less than 60%

University Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):

The University of North Texas Dallas faculty is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students' with documented disabilities are responsible for informing faculty of their needs for reasonable accommodations and providing written authorized documentation. Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed as accommodations are not retroactive. For more information, you may visit the Student Life Office, Suite 200, Building 2 or call Laura Smith at 972-780-3632.

Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy:

The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my course and I consider the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Assignment Policy:

All assignment are due at the start of class with **no credit given for late submission**. Unless otherwise indicated, all assignments are due in hard copy and may not be emailed for credit. There are no guaranteed opportunities for any points other than those listed above.

Exam Policy:

Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except for documented emergencies (See Student Handbook).

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Academic Integrity at <http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/policies/Chapter%2007%20Student%20Affairs,%20Education,%20and%20Funding/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic%20Integrity.pdf> for complete provisions of this code.

In addition, all academic work submitted for this class, including exams, papers, and written assignments should include the following statement:

On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance that violates the UNTD Academic Integrity Policy.

Bad Weather Policy:

On those days that present severe weather and driving conditions, a decision may be made to close the campus. In case of inclement weather, call UNT Dallas Campuses main voicemail number (972) 780-3600 or search postings on the campus website www.unt.edu/dallas. Students are encouraged to update their Eagle Alert contact information, so they will receive this information automatically.

Attendance and Participation Policy:

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in class. The dynamic and intensive nature of this course makes it impossible for students to make-up or to receive credit for missed classes. Attendance and participation in all class meetings is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency. Students are responsible to notify the instructor if they are missing class and for what reason. If the absence is an excused absence as defined by university policy, points missed may be made up. Unexcused absences will not allow for any points to be made up. Students are also responsible to make up any work covered in class during an excused absence. It is recommended that each student coordinate with a student colleague to obtain a copy of the class notes, if they are absent.

Students are expected to arrive on time for class and roll at the designated time. **Being tardy or absent will affect the points earned for attendance and thus your overall grade.**

Diversity/Tolerance Policy:

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Life as the instructor deems appropriate.

General Behavior:

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional and appropriate manner. You should expect to be silent when others are speaking, give your full attention to the professor or speaker, and refrain from reading newspapers or other distracting materials during class time.

Tobacco products of any kind are not permitted in the classroom.

Cell phones should always be on silent during class time.

Laptops and tablets may be approved for use in class for note taking on a provisional case-by-case basis.

Food is not permitted in the classroom although drinks are allowed as long as they are in a closed lid container.

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