



**Animal Behavior (ZOO 4513)
Spring 2019
BIO Room 209**

**Section 1: Monday/Wednesday 10:30-11:50 AM
Section 2: Monday/Wednesday 1:00-2:20 PM**

Instructor: Dr. Christa Diercksen

Office: Biology 201A

Communication:

- **Email:** christa.diercksen@ucf.edu
- **Office Hours** (BIO 201A):
 - Monday: 9-10 AM; Tuesday: 12-2 PM; Wednesday: 2:30-3:30 PM; Thursday: 11 AM-12 PM

Course Description:

- *Credit hours:* 3
- *Course Prerequisites:* Ecology (PCB 3044)
- *Purpose of the course:* ZOO 4513 is an upper division restrictive elective Biology course that explores the topic of Animal Behavior with a comparative and integrative approach linking evolutionary mechanisms with ecological and environmental factors that influence how animals behave. This course will satisfy Biology majors' upper division restricted elective requirements, with particular value for zoology, pre-veterinary and other pre-health students.

Course Objectives:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the fundamental questions of animal behavior
- Demonstrate understanding of evolutionary processes that produce behavior in animals
- Demonstrate how genetics, physiology and neurobiology influence behavior
- Demonstrate knowledge of the basic techniques for studying behavior
- Demonstrate proficiency interpreting figures and graphs
- Communicate and critique concepts of behavior orally and through written text

General Course Topics:

- Modern techniques of studying animal behavior
- Genetic, neural and physiological basis of behavior
- Predation avoidance and foraging behavior
- Territoriality and migration behavior
- Communication and behavior
- Mating systems, reproductive and parental care behavior
- Social evolution and behavior
- Human behavior

Required book/materials:

- “Animal Behavior, 11th Edition” by Dustin R. Rubenstein and John Alcock ; ISBN: 9781605355481



- Other readings or background information and/or links will be provided on Webcourses.
- Laptops, tablets and smart phones will be used for authorized class use only (i.e. Listening to audio files for group work).

Academic Activity Assignment: Bio 1 & 2 Foundation “Quiz”

- **Due date: Friday, January 11, 2019 at 5:00 PM**
- This assignment is for *completion only* (i.e. No point value assigned) BUT if you do not score well on the quiz, you are strongly encouraged to view the “*Primer of Biological Principles and Ecology*” Powerpoint containing a basic review of background concepts and important vocabulary necessary for ZOO 4513.
- Additionally, there is a link to a free Khan Academy crash course for Bio 1/2 and Ecology in our Webcourses that students can use to review this basic content if needed.

Course Grade Breakdown: Total of 500 points

- Lecture Exams (2) 200 pts. (100 pts. each)
- Lecture Quizzes (5) 100 pts. (20 pts. each)
- Final Exam (1) 50 pts.
- Thinking Outside Box Questions 100 pts. (10 pts. each); 14 possible, only 10 count
- Animal Behavior in the News (1) 30 pts.
- Reflections (3) 15 pts. (5 pts. each)
- What I Learned Today (1) 5 pts.

The final course grade will be awarded using the following scale by calculating the percentage of your total earned points during the semester out of 500 possible points:

- **Grade Scale:** A=90-100%; B+=87-89%; B=80-86%; C+=77-79%; C=70-76%; D+= 67-69%; D=60-66%; F<60% (*Note: No minus grades, e.g. “A-” or NC grades.*)
- Final grade percentages will be NOT be rounded up, e.g. An 89.6% would be a “B+” and not rounded to an “A” grade. There are NO exceptions to this grading scheme.
- **Withdrawal Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at 11:59 PM.**
- **Make-up work:** Make-ups for missed exams, quizzes or other due dates must be approved at the discretion of Dr. Diercksen and *will require documentation.*

Grade Details:

Short Answer Exams (200 pts. total):

- Two (2) lecture exams (each worth 100 pts.) with short answer, free response, critical thinking style questions
- Covered content will be announced in class.

Multiple Choice Quizzes (100 pts. total):

- Five (5) multiple choice 10 question quizzes (20 pts. each) will be given about every other week (see course schedule).
- Covered content for each quiz will be announced in class. In general, these questions will be more a factual recall style.
- Scantrons will NOT be necessary.

Final Exam (50 pts.):

- This is not a classic cumulative exam but will still address major concepts from the whole semester. More information will be given as the Final Exam period approaches.
- The Final Exam will be given during the Final Exam period per the UCF official Final Exam schedule.
- Students will be expected to attend the Final Exam for their registered section unless Dr. Diercksen has given approval for an alternative day and time.
- **Important: Failure to take the Final Exam will result in a failing grade (F) for the course.**

Animal Behavior in the News (30 pts.):

- **Due date: Monday, April 10 at 11:59 PM.**
 - Late submissions will be accepted but will be penalized 20% of the assignment's point value (6 points) each day late.
- This is an individual written assignment asking each student to find a current peer reviewed journal article on some topic of animal behavior research. Students are encouraged to find an article that particularly interests them, anything goes as long as it is about animal behavior.
- Students will be asked to summarize their article as if they are writing a mainstream media, layperson's version of the research as well as answering some questions about the article.
- More detail will be provided in the specific grading rubric online.
- The assignment will be submitted within the appropriate Webcourses' assignment either by attachment of a Word doc or pdf or by direct text input.

Chapter Thinking Outside the Box Questions (100 pts. total):

- Fourteen (14) Thinking Outside the Box question sets worth 10 pts. each will be discussed in groups of 3 students on given lecture days (typically Wednesdays)
- Groups will be selected randomly.
- **A maximum of 100 pts. per student** can be earned allowing for *up to 4 missed set of questions with no penalty*. Any absences beyond the 4 days must be documented and approved by Dr. Diercksen.
- The lowest 4 scores will be dropped from the student's final grade for this category.
- Each group's collective responses will be turned in at the end of the class period and will be scored as follows:
 - $\sqrt{+}$ = 10 pts. for very complete, thoughtful and/or correct answers
 - $\sqrt{}$ = 7 pts. for more or less correct answers but missing depth and details
 - $\sqrt{-}$ = 5 pts. for incomplete or incorrect answers
- If a student is not present for the lecture period, they will receive zero (0) points for that day/chapter.
- *Important: All students in a given group will receive the **same grade** for the response.*
- The questions will be pulled from the textbook's "Thinking Outside the Box" questions that ask students to explore the chapter content in a more direct, analytic manner. These can be found in chapter sections highlighted with a box around the content and titled with the chapter, e.g. Box 2.2 on page 35.

Reflections (15 pts. total):

- Three (3) personal reflections each worth 5 pts. (total of 15 pts.) will be submitted on Webcourses (Please refer to course schedule below for due dates).
 - Late submissions will be accepted but will lose 20% of the point value (1 pt.) for each day late.
- Information about what to include in Reflections can be found within the Assignment information.
- Due to the personal nature of Reflections, assessment will be based not on a "right" or "wrong" response but depth of thought in your Reflection will be assessed.

What I Learned Today (5 pts.):

- **Due date: No later than April 22 (last day of class)**
- Each student will be asked to share with the class one thing they learned (outside of our class!).

Classroom Conduct: By enrolling at UCF, all students have agreed to abide by the Golden Rule. Please become familiar with this document at: <http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu>

- Students who fail to show respect for the instructor or fellow students by talking, texting, using their laptops for non-class related material, etc. will be asked to leave.

Academic Integrity:

- Cheating on lecture exams and quizzes will not be tolerated.
- Plagiarism will also be monitored on all items turned in for any assignments.
- Penalties for cheating and plagiarism can include but are not limited to:
 - A failing grade on an assignment or in the course
 - Suspension or expulsion from the university
 - A "Z Designation" on a student's official transcript indicating academic dishonesty
 - For more information about the Z Designation, see <http://z.ucf.edu/>
- Students who are caught cheating will be immediately referred to the UCF Disciplinary Action Committee.

Disability Access Statement:

- Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Accessibility Services (SAS).
- Students are expected to schedule their own exams with SAS to be completed on the same day exams are given in the classroom but please let Dr. Diercksen know if you are taking your exams at SAS or wish to discuss other accommodations. For the lecture quizzes, please discuss with Dr. Diercksen if accommodations are requested.

Spring 2019 Schedule (subject to change)

Week 1: January 7 & 9

Reading: Chapter 1: An Introduction to Animal Behavior
January 9: **Reflection #1 Due at 11:59 PM**

Week 2: January 14 & 16

Reading: Chapter 2: The Integrative Study of Behavior
January 16: **Quiz #1**

Week 3: January 21 & 23

January 21: NO CLASS (MLK Day)
Reading: Chapter 3: The Developmental and Genetic Bases of Behavior

Week 4: January 28 & 30

Reading: Chapter 4: The Neural Basis of Behavior

Week 5: February 4 & 6

Reading: Chapter 5: The Physiological Basis of Behavior

Week 6: February 11 & 13

Reading: Chapter 6: Avoiding Predators and Finding Food
February 13: **Quiz #2**

Week 7: February 18 & 20

Reading: Chapter 7: Territoriality and Migration
February 18 Reflection #2 Due at 11:59 PM

Week 8: February 25 & 27

Reading: Chapter 8: Principles of Communication
February 27: **Quiz #3**

Week 9: March 4 & 6

Reading: Chapter 9 Reproductive Behavior
March 6: **Exam 1**

March 11-15 SPRING BREAK!!!

Week 10: March 18 & 20

Reading: Chapter 10: Mating Systems

Week 11: March 25 & 27

Reading: Chapter 11: Parental Care
March 27: **Quiz #4**

Week 12: April 1 & 3

Reading: Chapter 12: Principles of Social Evolution

Week 13: April 8 & 10

Reading: Chapter 13: Social Behavior and Sociality
April 8:
April 10: **Animal Behavior in the News Due at 11:59 PM**
Quiz #5

Week 14: April 15 & 17

Reading: Chapter 14: Human Behavior
April 15: **Reflection #3 Due at 11:59 PM**

Week 15: April 22 only

April 22: **Exam 2**

Final Exam Period:

Final Exam: **Section 1 (10:30 AM lecture): Monday, April 29 at 10:00 AM-12:50 PM**
 Section 2 (1:00 PM lecture): Monday, April 29 at 1:00-3:50 PM