Animal Behavior

ZOO 4513 – 3 credit hours

Mondays and Wednesdays 10:30 – 11:50
BIOL 209

Instructor: Dr. Kate Mansfield, room 402B, Biological Sciences Building
Office Phone: (407) 823-4431 (email is preferred)
Email: kate.mansfield@ucf.edu; **please put ZOO 4513 in the subject line**

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 9:00 am to 10:00 am
*Note: there will be no office hours February 16th, April 20th and 22nd. I will be at conferences those days; however, I will make arrangements for additional office hours and optional review as needed.

Prerequisites: PCB 3044; a basic understanding of biology or a year of introductory Biology is ideal.

Course Website: Webcourses ZOO4513-15Spring 0001
All online access codes will be: ZOO4513 unless otherwise noted (ZOO should be all caps).

Course Description and Goals:
This course is designed to introduce you to the broad field of animal behavior, and to provide you with an understanding of behavior from an evolutionary perspective. Classes will include a combination of lectures and group discussions that will be based on textbook readings (see required text below), as well as scientific papers and readings from the popular press/scientific media. The goal of this course is to expose you to a variety of approaches used to understand animal behavior and to broaden your perspective on the animal (and human) world around us. Another goal of this class is to help you develop a critical approach to understanding the science behind animal behavior studies.

Readings and Texts:
Additional readings and other materials will be provided by the instructor online (class website) or in class.

Textbooks (required):

Alcock, J. (2013) *Animal Behavior: An Evolutionary Approach,* Tenth Edition. Sinauer Associates, Inc. Sunderland, MA. ISBN: 978-0-87893-966-4.

Sherman, P. and Alcock, J. (2013) Exploring Animal Behavior: readings from American Scientist, 6th edition (paperback). Sinauer Associates, Inc. Sunderland, MA. ISBN: 978-1605351957

Other Resources:

The UCF Library has an animal behavior resource page available at http://guides.ucf.edu/zoo. Use it!

***Optional texts and books*:**
Goodenough, J., B. McGuire, and E. Jackob (2010) *Perspectives on Animal Behavior,* Third Edition. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. Hoboken, NJ. ISBN: 978-0-470-04517-6

Journals (online via the library):
Animal Behaviour
Behavioral Ecology
Ethology
Behavior

General Class Information, Expectations, and Assignments:
Monday classes will be primarily reserved for lecture material. Wednesday classes will focus on lecture material with time dedicated for group discussions or presentations. You will be expected to actively participate in the class and you are responsible for learning any material that you may have missed. ***Note that class lectures will include information that is not covered by the assigned readings/textbook. All assignments and exams must be typed unless otherwise noted.***

Readings:
You will be responsible for *both* lecture material and assigned readings in the text. Both sources are fair game for exams, so please do not place undue emphasis upon one or the other. Readings will be assigned in class and/or on the class website.

Class Participation and Group Discussions:
Your attendance is important both for your understanding of the lecture material, as well as your participation in the class discussions. Everyone will be assigned to a discussion group no later than ~Week Two of class (once the class roster is finalized). You will remain with this group for the semester.

Group Assignments:
During one class in the semester (a Wednesday, see schedule below), your group will be responsible for sharing articles (of your choosing!) on current topics in the field of animal behavior. This will require some literature searching, preparation, and reading-up on a topic of interest to you that relates to the material covered in class and/or animal behavior in general. This is something that you can prepare for in advance. You must be in attendance the day your group up in order to receive full credit for this assignment.

Members of each group will be required to email me (kate.mansfield@ucf.edu) your article(s) on the **Friday (by midnight) before your group's Wednesday discussion day (see schedule below).** This is to allow the class enough time to complete any pertinent readings. The source of your article is up to you. Please email either an attachment with the article or a link to the source along with (<one page, typed, single space, 12 pt font):

1) A brief summary regarding the article's topic;
2) Why you found the topic or article interesting;
3) At least one question you have regarding the article; and
4) Whether or not you think the article's findings are valid given the source and/or methods and results/conclusions (and why).

All articles/topics must relate to animal behavior and each group should try to coordinate their article selection around a general/broad topic or theme. The UCF library has an excellent online guide established to assist literature searches for animal behavior; it is available at http://guides.ucf.edu/zoo. The purpose of this assignment is to:

1) Provide you with an opportunity to search, explore, and read scientific literature;
2) Hopefully provide you with an appreciation for how broad the field of animal behavior is; and
3) Get you thinking critically about scientific literature, science in the media, and scientific sources.

Note that I encourage all of you to bring up topics of interest, articles, news items, etc. (related to the class) at any time during the semester.

Exams:
There will be three exams—two midterms and one final exam. I am not a fan of multiple-choice. My goal is for you to learn and apply the material covered in class, not regurgitate it like an Adelie penguin (*Pygoscolis adeliae*) feeding its young (see also: Figure 5.22, panel 3 in your textbook). So, you can expect short-answer questions or short essays. Lectures and assigned readings are fair game. The midterm exams will focus on new material covered. The final exam may be comprehensive; however, it will emphasize the remainder of the semester not covered by the other two midterms. The final will be made up of two parts: 1) a "data collection" component that you will complete during the semester (details will be provided in class); and 2) written exam questions, including questions focusing on your "data collection" component. Your final exam will be scheduled during the exam period **(TBD)**.

Grading and Evaluation:
Students will be graded and evaluated based on exam scores (midterms and final), class/discussion participation (including attendance), and completion of group assignments. Graded tests and materials in this course will be returned individually only by request and only during office hours or after class. You can access your scores at

any time using the Grade Book function of Webcourses. *Please note that scores returned mid-semester are unofficial grades and the average grade/percentages do not reflect the following breakdown*:

Midterm exam 1	20%
Midterm exam 2	20%
Class participation and discussions	5%
Group assignment	10%
Final exam part I ('data collection')	15%
Final exam part II (take-home exam questions)	30%

You will be graded based on the following scale (this class is NOT graded on a curve):

A	94-100%	C	73-76%
A-	90-93%	C-	70-72%
B+	87-89%	D+	67-69%
B	83-86%	D	63-66%
B-	80-82%	D-	60-62%
C+	77-79%	F	<60%

Academic Conduct:
Students are expected to follow UCF's standards for personal and academic conduct as defined and outlined in the Golden Rule (see: http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu). Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. If you are uncertain as to what constitutes academic dishonesty, please consult The Golden Rule, the University of Central Florida's Student Handbook (http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/) for further details. As in all University courses, The Golden Rule Rules of Conduct will be applied. Violations of these rules will result in a record of the infraction being placed in your file and receiving a zero on the work in question AT A MINIMUM. At the instructor's discretion, you may also receive a failing grade for the course. Confirmation of such incidents can also result in expulsion from the University.

Late assignments will receive a 10% deduction per day that the assignment is late. After two days, late assignments will not be accepted and you will not receive credit for the assignment. **Make-up assignments/exams will be determined on a case-by-case basis and in advance of any deadline**. If you must miss an assignment, exam, discussion, etc. and you have a valid reason for doing so, you **must inform me by email PRIOR to the missed class/activity or ASAP.** If you must miss for medical/health reasons, please provide a doctor's note. Students are expected to notify me in advance (at the beginning of the semester) if they intend to miss class to observe a holy day of their religious faith.

The current UCF policy concerning **incomplete grades** will be followed in this course. Incomplete grades are given only in situations where unexpected emergencies prevent a student from completing the course and the remaining work can be completed the next semester. Your instructor is the final authority on whether you qualify for an

incomplete. Incomplete work must be finished by the end of the subsequent semester or the “I” will automatically be recorded as an “F” on your transcript.

As of Fall 2014, all faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, I will be documenting attendance during at least the first couple weeks of class. Failure to attend class will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid and incur the wrath of the bean counters.

Technology and Media:

Email:
My preferred method of communication is via email. Please put “ZOO-4513” in the subject line. If I do not respond within 24 hours, please send a follow-up email. I will try to respond to all emails within 24 hours. Please note that emails received after 7-8 pm at night may not be opened until the following morning.

Phones in Class:
Please turn off and put away all phones during class. Texts, phone calls, web searching, etc. will not be tolerated.

Laptop and iPad (or tablet) Usage:
Laptops and tablets may be used in class for the sole purpose of taking notes. All wireless/internet connections must be turned off and/or in airplane mode.

Webcourses:
Some class materials or resources (readings, videos) will be made available through webcourses. Information will be provided in class or announced online when new material is available on the site. All access codes will be: ZOO4513 unless otherwise noted.

Disability Access:
The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Ferrell Commons Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Professionalism Policy:
Per university policy and classroom etiquette; mobile phones, iPods, *etc*. **must be silenced** during all classroom and lab lectures. Those not heeding this rule will be asked to leave the classroom/lab immediately so as to not disrupt the learning environment. Please arrive on time for all class meetings. Students who habitually disturb the class by talking, arriving late, *etc*., and have been warned may suffer a reduction in their final class grade.

Shameless Plug for the UCF Marine Turtle Research Group:
Consider applying for our 2014 Summer Internship Program! We will be accepting applications early in the spring 2014 semester. Graduate students from the lab will make a short presentation about the program with more details (likely in January or early February). Interviews will be conducted in Feb/March and final selections will be made by the end of the semester. We will be choosing up to 12 interns for long days and nights on the beach or on the water, working within the Archie Carr NWR in Melbourne Beach, FL.

Course Schedule (subject to revision):
Additional optional and assigned readings will be provided as the semester progresses. The dates and assignments/subjects/readings in this schedule are tentative, and can be changed at the discretion of the professor.

Additional readings for group discussions will be announced in class on Mondays and selected from the readings provided by the week's discussion group (who should have provided reading options to me by the ***previous Friday at midnight***). These readings will be made available online. Please note that this schedule is subject to change.

Date	**Lecture Topic/Group Assignment**	**Chapter(s)**
Jan-12 (M)	Course introduction/Introduction to Animal Behavior	
Jan-14 (W)	An Evolutionary Approach to Animal Behavior - overview	1,2
Jan-19 (M)	**NO CLASS, MLK Holiday**	
Jan-21 (W)	Behavioral Ecology and the Evolution of Altruism; group time	2,3
Jan-26 (M)	Behavioral Ecology and the Evolution of Altruism;	2,3
Jan-28 (W)	Evolution of Altruism; The Evolution of Social Behavior **Group 1 assignment and discussion**	3
Feb-2 (M)	The Evolution of Social Behavior	3,4
Feb-4 (W)	The Evolution of Communication **Group 2 assignment and discussion**	4
Feb-9 (M)	Evolution of Communication	4
Feb-11 (W)	**Midterm review;** Evolution of Communication; Avoiding Predators and Finding Food **Group 3 assignment and discussion**	4,5
Feb-16 (M)	Chris Long (sea turtle sexual selection)	TBD
Feb-18 (W)	**Midterm 1**	(1-4/5)
Feb-23 (M)	Avoiding predators and finding food; Habitat Selection, Territoriality, and Migration	5,6

Feb-25 (W)	Habitat Selection, Territoriality, and Migration; Avoiding predators and finding food **Group 4 assignment and discussion**	5,6
Mar-2 (M)	Evolution of Reproductive Behavior and Mating Systems	7,8
Mar-4 (W)	Evolution of Mating Systems and Parental Care **Group 5 assignment and discussion**	8, 9
Mar-9 &11	**NO CLASS—SPRING BREAK**	
Mar-16 (M)	Evolution of Mating Systems and Parental Care	8,9
Mar-18 (W)	Evolution of Parental Care **Group 6 assignment and discussion**	9
Mar-23 (M)	Development of Behavior	11
Mar-25 (W)	Development of Behavior; Evolution, Nervous Systems and Behavior; midterm review **Group 7 assignment and discussion**	11, 12
Mar-30 (M)	**Midterm 2**	(~5/6-9, 11)
Apr-1 (W)	Nervous Systems and Behavior **Group 8 assignment and discussion**	12
Apr-6 (M)	How Neurons and Hormones Organize Behavior	13
Apr-8 (W)	How Neurons and Hormones Organize Behavior and Evolution of Human Behavior **Group 9 assignment and discussion**	13,14
Apr-13 (M)	Evolution of Human Behavior	14
Apr-15 (W)	Final exam review; Discussion **Group 10 assignment and discussion**	
Apr-20 (M)	Guest lecturer: TBD	
Apr-22 (W)	Guest lecturer: TBD	
Apr-27 (M)	Wrap-up and review	
May 4 (M)	Final exam (10am-12:50pm)	