

# Animal Behavior

ZOO 4513 – 3 credit hours

Tuesdays, Thursdays 12:00 – 1:20

MSB 336

**Instructor:** Dr. Kate Mansfield, room 402B, Biological Sciences Building  
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Email: [kate.mansfield@ucf.edu](mailto:kate.mansfield@ucf.edu); **please put ZOO 4513 in the subject line**

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30 am to 11:00 am

\*Note: there will be no office hours the week of April 14-18. I will be at a conference that week; 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 ZOO4513-14Spring 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.

### Textbook (required):

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

### 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. Jakob (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:**

Tuesday classes will be primarily reserved for lecture material. Thursday classes will focus on lecture material with time dedicated for group discussions. 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.***

*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. You will remain with this group for the semester during all group discussions. Periodically, you or your group may be called upon to give a brief summary or presentation over that day's material/discussion. These summaries will not be pre-announced, so you should be prepared for each class discussion.

Discussion topics/questions will be based on lecture and text material and/or group assignments and will be announced before class (likely the Tuesday class prior). You will be expected to bring your **typed** answers to class and be prepared to discuss your answers with your discussion group and/or the class as a whole. Periodically, I will ask for these assignments to be turned in at the end of class. So, always be prepared... Note that your answers will serve as excellent study material for the exams.

### *Group Assignments:*

During one class in the semester (a Thursday, 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](mailto:kate.mansfield@ucf.edu)) your article(s) on the **Monday (by midnight) before your group's Thursday discussion day (see schedule below)**. 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 two exams—one midterm and one final exam. The midterm will be given late February (before spring break). 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 exam will focus on material covered through the first part of the semester. The final exam will be comprehensive with an emphasis on the remainder of the semester. 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 due on **Saturday, April 26 by midnight (or TBD)**. The final exam will be take-home and I will give you at least a week to complete it. **All take-home exams must be typed.**

### **Grading and Evaluation:**

Students will be graded and evaluated based on exam scores (midterm 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. 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.

Midterm exam	25%
Class participation and discussions	20%
Group assignment	10%
Final exam part I ('data collection')	10%
Final exam part II (take-home exam questions)	35%

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. 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.

### **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.

**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 Tuesdays and selected from the readings provided by the week's discussion group (who should have provided reading options to me by the **previous Monday at midnight**). These readings will be made available online.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Lecture Topic/Group Assignment</b>	<b>Chapter(s)</b>
Jan-7 (T)	Course introduction/Introduction to Animal Behavior	
Jan-9 (Th)	An Evolutionary Approach to Animal Behavior - overview	1,2
Jan-14 (T)	Behavioral Ecology and the Evolution of Altruism	2
Jan-16 (Th)	The Evolution Social Behavior	3
	<b>Group 1 Assignment and discussion</b>	
Jan-21 (T)	The Evolution of Social Behavior and Communication	3,4
Jan-23 (Th)	The Evolution of Communication	4
	<b>Group 2 Assignment and discussion</b>	
Jan-28 (T)	Avoiding Predators and Finding Food	5
Jan-30 (Th)	Avoiding Predators and Finding Food	5
	<b>Group 3 Assignment and discussion</b>	
Feb-4 (T)	Habitat Selection, Territoriality, and Migration	6
Feb-6 (Th)	Habitat Selection, Territoriality, and Migration;	6
	<b>Group 4 Assignment and discussion</b>	
Feb-11 (T)	Guest speaker: Dr. Kenneth Lohmann	*TBD
Feb-13 (Th)	Discussion, Midterm review;	1-6
	<b>Group 5 Assignment and discussion</b>	
<b>Feb-18 (T)</b>	<b>MIDTERM</b>	
Feb-20 (Th)	Evolution of Reproductive Behavior	7
	<b>Group 6 Assignment and discussion</b>	
Feb-25 (T)	Evolution of Reproductive Behavior and Mating Systems	7,8
Feb-27 (Th)	Evolution of Mating Systems (just in time for Spring Break!)	8
	<b>Group 7 Assignment and discussion</b>	
Mar-4 and 6	NO CLASS—SPRING BREAK	
Mar-11 (T)	Evolution of Mating Systems and Parental Care	8,9
Mar-13 (Th)	Evolution of Parental Care	9
	<b>Group 8 Assignment and discussion</b>	
Mar-18 (T)	Proximate and Ultimate Causes of Behavior	10
Mar-20 (Th)	Development of Behavior	11

	<b>Group 9 Assignment and discussion</b>	
Mar-25 (T)	Development of Behavior and Evolution, Nervous Systems and Behavior	11, 12
Mar-27 (Th)	Nervous Systems and Behavior	12
	<b>Group 10 Assignment and discussion</b>	
Apr-1 (T)	How Neurons and Hormones Organize Behavior	13
Apr-3 (Th)	How Neurons and Hormones Organize Behavior and Evolution of Human Behavior	13,14
	<b>Group 11 Assignment and discussion</b>	
Apr-8 (T)	Evolution of Human Behavior	14
Apr-10 (Th)	Final exam review; Discussion	
	<b>Group 12 Assignment and discussion</b>	
Apr-15 (T)	Guest lecturer: Mr. Frank Loguidice	
Apr-17 (Th)	Guest lecturer: Mr. Frank Loguidice; final take-home exam distributed	
<b>Apr-26</b>	Final exam due by midnight Saturday the 26 <sup>th</sup> (or TBD)	

### **Successful Completion of this Course:**

Upon successfully completing this course (e.g., meeting deadlines, attending and participating in class, maintaining academic and professional integrity), you will be invited to spend either a night or a day in the field with the UCF Marine Turtle Research Group during the 2014 season to experience sea turtle nesting or in-water behavior within the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge or adjacent Indian River lagoon coastal habitats. More information will be provided at the end of the semester!

### **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.