

ZOO 4910L
Research Experience in Animal Behavior in a Zoo Environment
Summer 2018 Syllabus

Instructor : Mr. Frank T. Logiudice
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Recommended Book: “Writing Papers in Biological Sciences” 6th Edition by Victoria McMillan (Note a previous edition would be fine and this book is not at the UCF Bookstore.)
Website: See UCF Webcourses

Framework of Course: In this course you will be observing, documenting, and analyzing animal behavior at the Central Florida Zoo and Botanical Gardens using techniques in animal behavior research. You will present your data in written format through two term papers.

Requirements: The course in many ways is a directed independent study. It will be your responsibility to maintain a self-directed observation schedule at the Central Florida Zoo and Botanical Gardens.

Assignments: You will coordinate with the Central Florida Zoo and Botanical Gardens to determine what species you will be studying and what the nature of your project will be. You will be required to successfully complete the following tasks:

- 1) On the first week there will be an orientation meeting (time and location to be determined) where we will discuss what your study will be about, how to record your observations in accordance with proper research methods and how to submit your observations.
- 2) You will make weekly observations of the animal (-s) and behavior (-s) in coordination with the Central Florida Zoo and Botanical Gardens.
- 3) Your observations will be submitted weekly excepting Spring Break. They can be submitted electronically.
- 4) **Your first paper is due on Monday, July 2nd.** The paper will describe your observations. You will need to do a literature search and include it in your paper if the observed behaviors are documented as occurring in the wild. The paper will also include your conclusions. The paper should be of an appropriate length to adequately cover the assignment and should adhere to standard format.
- 5) After the first paper has been graded, the student and instructor will meet at a time to be determined to discuss your paper at the discretion of either party.
- 6) **Your second paper is due on Wednesday, August 1st.** This paper will be an advancement of your first paper including your new observations. You will discuss the evolutionary and survival significance of your observed behaviors. Because each study will be different, the paper requirements will study specific. The student and instructor will discuss the requirements once the nature of the study has been determined. Because each study will be different the paper requirements will also vary. The student and instructor will discuss the requirements once the nature of the study has been determined.
- 7) Later that week the student and instructor will meet at a time to be determined to discuss your paper.

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Grades : The student's grade will be determined by the ten submitted observations (10 points each), one life history paper (10 points), and two term papers. The first paper is worth 70 points and is on due 2 July. The second paper is worth 130 points and is due on 1 August.

Total lecture points available is 310.

Grading Scale:

A = 310 -> 279

B = 278 -> 248

C = 247 -> 217

D = 216 -> 186

F = 185 -> 0

Note: +/- grades are not used in this class.

Academic Honesty: Refer to the UCF Golden Rule which will be rigidly adhered to.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week	Activities	Assignments Due
May 6	Orientation (11 May at CFZ at 12:00)	
May 13	Begin Observations	Background Paper
May 20	Continue Observations and Data Evaluations	Observations 1
May 27	Continue Observations and Data Evaluations	Observations 2
June 3	Continue Observations and Data Evaluations	Observations 3
June 10	Continue Observations and Data Evaluations	Observations 4
June 17	Continue Observations and Data Evaluations	Observations 5
June 24	Continue Observations and Data Evaluations	Observations 6
July 1	First Paper Due and Continue Observations	First Paper and Observations 7
July 8	First Paper Review and Continue Observations	Observations 8
July 15	Continue Observations and Data Evaluations	Observations 9
July 22	Continue Observations and Data Evaluations	Observations 10
July 29	Second Paper Due and Second Paper Review	

Important Dates: Add Deadline – 18 May
Drop Deadline – 17 May
Withdrawal Deadline – 3 July

Office Hours: MTWR 12:00-1:00 for A term and by appointment
By appointment only for B term