

ZOO 4910L
Research Experience in Animal Behavior in a Zoo Environment
Spring 2020 Syllabus

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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, March 16. 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) Later that week the student and instructor will meet, as requested by the student, at a time to be determined to discuss your paper.
- 6) Your second paper is due on Friday, April 17. 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 as requested by the student, at a time to be determined to discuss your paper.

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Grades: The student's grade will be determined by the twelve submitted observations (10 points each), one life history paper (10 points), and two term papers. The first term paper is worth 70 points and is on due 18 March. The second paper is worth 130 points and is due on 19 April.

Total points available is 330.

Grading Scale:

A = 330 -> 297

B = 296 -> 264

C = 263 -> 231

D = 230 -> 198

F = 197 -> 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 |
|-------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Dec 29 | Orientation (12:00 January 2 nd , CFZ) | |
| Jan 5 | Begin Observations | Life History Paper (1/10/19) |
| Jan 12 | Continue Observations and Data Evaluations | Weekly Observations (1/17/19) |
| Jan 19 | Continue Observations and Data Evaluations | Weekly Observations (1/24/19) |
| Jan 26 | Continue Observations and Data Evaluations | Weekly Observations (1/31/19) |
| Feb 2 | Continue Observations and Data Evaluations | Weekly Observations (2/7/19) |
| Feb 9 | Continue Observations and Data Evaluations | Weekly Observations (2/14/19) |
| Feb 16 | Continue Observations and Data Evaluations | Weekly Observations (2/21/19) |
| Feb 23 | Continue Observations and Data Evaluations | Weekly Observations (2/8/19) |
| Mar 1 | Continue Observations and Data Evaluations | Weekly Observations (3/6/19) |
| Mar 8 | SPRING BREAK | |
| Mar 15 | First Paper Due , Paper Review, & Observations | Weekly Observations (3/20/19) |
| Mar 22 | Continue Observations and Data Evaluations | Weekly Observations (3/27/19) |
| Mar 29 | Continue Observations and Data Evaluations | Weekly Observations (4/3/19) |
| Apr 5 | Continue Observations and Data Evaluations | Weekly Observations (4/10/19) |
| Apr 12 | Second Paper Due and Second Paper Review | |

Important Dates: Add Deadline – Jan. 10
Drop Deadline – Jan. 9
Withdrawal Deadline – Mar. 20

Office Hours: MWF 11:00-12:00 in BL 202c and by appointment