

Animal Behavior: ZOO 4513 Spring 2021

Tuesday/Thursday: 12:00-1:20 PM via Zoom (V)

Instructor: Dr. Christa Diercksen



Communication:

- **Email:** christa.diercksen@ucf.edu
- **Virtual Office Hours:** Thursdays: 2:00-3:00 PM via Webcourses Chat or by individual appointments via Zoom

Teaching Assistant: Sydney Stamford



- **Email:** sydney.stamford@Knights.ucf.edu
- **Virtual Office Hours:** Mondays: 2:00-3:00 pm & Thursdays: 10:30-11:30 am via Zoom

Official Class Group Me:

Use this link: https://groupme.com/join_group/63908038/q0X87Ahm

- Or scan the QR code below to join



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:

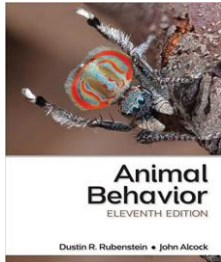
- Demonstrate knowledge of the fundamental questions of animal behavior
- Demonstrate understanding of evolutionary processes that produce behavior in animals
- Demonstrate how genetics, physiology and neurobiology influence behavior
- Demonstrate knowledge of the basic techniques for studying behavior
- 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

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.

Academic Activity Assignment: 3 Words Reflection

- **Due date: Friday, January 15, 2021 at 5:00 PM**
- This assignment is for *completion only*.

General Course Structure:

- The class will meet **synchronously** during our scheduled course days and time (**T/TH from 12:00-1:20 PM**) within the Zoom environment.
- Most Tuesday Zooms will cover course content delivered via Powerpoint lectures. Most Thursday Zooms will typically involve a case study or analysis approach to course content and could involve group discussion within Zoom breakout rooms.
- All Zoom sessions will be recorded and posted in our Webcourses.

Course Grade Breakdown: Total of 350 points

Lecture Quizzes (7, lowest dropped)	150 pts. (25 pts. each)
Final Exam (1)	50 pts.
Thinking Outside Box Questions (10)	50 pts. (5 pts. each) <i>Note: Group grade</i>
Case Studies (3)	45 pts. (15 pts. each)
Ethogram (1)	45 pts.
Reflections (2)	10 pts. (5 pts. each)

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 350 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 rounded up from 0.5 to the next highest whole number, e.g. An 89.6% would round to 90% and the letter grade would be an "A". An 89.4% would round to an 89%, and the letter grade will be a "B+". There are NO exceptions to this rounding scheme.
- **Withdrawal Date: Friday, March 26, 2021 at 11:59 PM**
 - Please refer to the Undergraduate Catalog for detailed information about the implications of the withdrawal date.
 - Students must initiate withdrawal themselves. Dr. Diercksen will NOT automatically withdraw any student from the course.
 - Late and medical withdrawals and Incompletes are granted for only very compelling and documented reasons.
- **Grade Forgiveness Date: Monday, April 26, 2021 at 11:59 PM.**
 - Please refer to the Undergraduate Catalog for detailed information about the Grade Forgiveness process.
 - Students must apply for grade forgiveness if they are taking the course the 2nd time. The 2nd grade will NOT be awarded automatically without applying for Grade Forgiveness.
- Grades will be posted in Webcourses as available but are NOT to be considered official grades at any one given moment.
- No grades will be given over the phone or by email according to Federal law (FERPA regulations).
- Grades will not be routinely curved unless warranted by Dr. Diercksen's discretion.
- **Extra Credit:** Extra credit is NOT routinely available although opportunities *may* arise throughout the semester.
- **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:

3 Words Reflection (5 pts.)

- **Due: Friday, January 15 at 5:00 pm**
- As described above, this reflection will serve as the Academic Activity and will be scored for completion only.
- It is very important for Financial Aid students to complete this assignment in order to have their financial funds distributed properly.

Webcourses Quizzes (7 quizzes, 25 pts. each, 150 pts. total with lowest dropped)

- **Due dates:** Please see the Course Schedule for individual quiz dates, but overall quizzes will be every other week starting with Week 2.
 - NO late quizzes will be allowed unless approved by Dr. Diercksen.
- The lowest quiz grade will be dropped (including any missed quiz which will receive a grade of zero) therefore **only 6 quiz grades will count towards the final grade.**
- Quizzes will be **open beginning at 12:01 AM on Friday mornings** of a given week and will be **available until the following Monday at 11:59 PM** (i.e. Open for 96 hours).
- Quizzes will have a **80-minute time limit** once a student begins.

- These quizzes are considered **OPEN notes** but students are expected to complete them entirely on their own with no assistance from other individuals.
- Quizzes may contain manually graded short response questions as well multiple-choice questions.
- Specific content for each quiz will be announced in lecture and in Webcourses announcements but, in general, they will cover the content of the previous 2 weeks.

Final Exam (50 pts.):

- **Due: Thursday, April 29, 11:59 pm**
- 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 consist of both multiple-choice questions and free response questions.

Chapter Thinking Outside the Box Questions (5 pts. each, 50 pts.):

- **Due dates:** Please see the Course Schedule for individual due dates.
- Ten (10) “Thinking Outside the Box” question sets will be discussed and answered in groups of 3 students on given lecture days (typically Thursdays) using Zoom breakout rooms.
- Each group’s collective responses will be submitted to Webcourses to the appropriate Group Assignment.
- **Important: Only ONE set of responses is necessary for each group. It is a group’s responsible to designate which group member will be submitting the response.**
- The following approximate rubric will be used to score the responses:
 - 5 pts. for very complete, thoughtful and/or correct answers
 - 3 pts. for more or less correct answers but missing depth and details
 - 1 pts. for incomplete or completely incorrect answers
 - 0 pts. for missing assignment
- **All students in a given group will receive the same grade for the response.**
- Groups will be randomly assigned at the beginning of the semester.
- If needed, groups may need to be re-balanced if students drop the course and any given group loses more than 1 student. Pairs of students will be allowed to continue as a group.
- 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.

Case Studies (15 pts. each, 45 pts. total)

- **Due dates:** Please see course schedule for individual due dates.
- Three (3) case studies concerning course content will be reviewed during class time, typically on Thursdays.
- Assessments for each case study will be available in Webcourses after the case study has been discussed in class and will consist of multiple choice and/or free response questions.
- The case study assessments are considered **OPEN notes**, but students are expected to complete them entirely on their own with no assistance from other individuals.

Ethogram (45 pts.)

- **Due: Tuesday, April 20 at 12:00 pm**
- This assignment will ask students to observe an animal, recording and analyzing their behavior. More details will be given in the Assignment description in Webcourses.
- During the last week of the semester, students will share a one page “poster” of their ethogram with other students in the class.

Final Reflection (5 pts.)

- **Due: Thursday, April 22 15 at 11:59 pm**
- This reflection will ask students to think about the course as the semester is coming to a close.
- The reflection will be scored for completion only.

Other Important Information

- Students will need reliable access to *at the very least*, a smart phone or tablet although a computer (PC running Windows or Mac) is preferred.
- It is highly recommended you access Webcourses through the Google Chrome browser for the best experience.
- Students will need the ability to access the internet on a regular and reliable manner.
- Student do NOT need a Webcam for Zoom classes or quizzes.

General tips for online quizzes

- Select a location where you won't be interrupted
- Clear your area of all external materials — books, papers, other computers, or devices
- Before starting the test, know how much time is available for it, and that you've allotted sufficient time to complete it
- Remain at your desk or workstation for the duration of the test
- Turn off all mobile devices, phones, etc. and don't have them within reach
- Clear your area of all external materials — books, papers, other computers, or devices

Course Submissions

- Assignments and assessments will be conducted within Webcourses.
- Details for submission is given for each assessment in the assignment or quiz introduction.

Attendance/Participation

- The Zoom lectures do NOT have mandatory in "real time" attendance and participation however all students are strongly encouraged to attend for the highest level of success in the class.
- Zoom sessions will be recorded and can be viewed later if desired. These recorded videos will be uploaded to the Zoom Cloud and links will be available within our Webcourses.
- While some class information and reminders will be given in Announcements, the majority of communication will take place during the Zoom lectures.
- If a student misses a lecture, it is their responsibility to view the recorded sessions when available or communicate with other students who did attend.

General Zoom Information:

- Because of the continued remote instruction requirement due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this course will use Zoom for synchronous ("real time") class meetings.
- Class meeting dates and times will be scheduled through Webcourses@UCF and should appear on your calendar with the meeting invite link. You will also receive an email for each class meeting invite.
- Please take the time to familiarize yourself with Zoom by visiting the [UCF Zoom Guides](https://cdl.ucf.edu/support/webcourses/zoom/) at <https://cdl.ucf.edu/support/webcourses/zoom/>. You may choose to use Zoom on your mobile device (phone or tablet).

Things to Know About Zoom:

- You must sign in to the Zoom sessions using your UCF NID and password.
- The Zoom sessions are recorded (including the Chat to Everyone) and closed captioned.
- Students will be muted by the instructor during the class sessions due to the large class size. Students are encouraged to use the Chat feature within Zoom to ask questions or participate in discussions.
- Improper classroom behavior is not tolerated within Zoom sessions and may result in a referral to the Office of Student Conduct.
- You can contact Webcourses@UCF Support if you have any technical issues accessing Zoom.

Make-up Quizzes & Assignments

- Per university policy, students are allowed to submit make-up work (or an equivalent, alternate assignment) for authorized university-sponsored activities, religious observances, or legal obligations (such as jury duty).
- All potential make-up work (assignments or assessments such as quizzes) will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Please contact Dr. Diercksen ASAP if you are unable to complete an assignment or assessment for any reason.

Course Schedule

- Please use the tentative course schedule in addition to Webcourses' Calendar to know the important due dates and which course topics are covered each week.
- Dr. Diercksen reserves the right to make changes if necessary to the course schedule, updating when needed and will notify students of any changes.

University Services and Resources

- **Academic Services and Resources**
 - A list of available academic support and learning services is available at [UCF Student Services](#). Click on "Academic Support and Learning Services" on the right-hand side to filter.
- **Non-Academic Services and Resources**
 - During your UCF career, you may experience challenges including struggles with academics, finances, or your personal well-being. UCF has a multitude of resources available to all students.
 - Please visit [UCFCares.com](#) if you are seeking resources and support, or if you are worried about a friend or classmate. Free services and information are included for a variety of student concerns, including but not limited to alcohol use, bias incidents, mental health concerns, and financial challenges.
 - You can also e-mail ucfcares@ucf.edu with questions or for additional assistance.
 - You can reach a UCF Cares staff member between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. by calling 407-823-5607. If you are in immediate distress, please call Counseling and Psychological Services to speak directly with a counselor 24/7 at 407-823-2811, or please call 911.
 - A list of non-academic support and services is also available at [UCF Student Services](#). Click on "Support" on the right-hand side to filter.
 - If you are a UCF Online student, please consult the [UCF Online Student Guidelines](#) for more information about your access to non-academic services.
- **Policy Statements**
 - Students should familiarize themselves with [UCF's Rules of Conduct](#). According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in:
 - *Unauthorized assistance*: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise unless specifically authorized by the instructor of record. The unauthorized possession of examination or course-related material also constitutes cheating.
 - *Communication to another through written, visual, electronic, or oral means*: The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather was obtained through someone else's efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment, or project.
 - *Commercial Use of Academic Material*: Selling of course material to another person, student, and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the university and the instructor. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, Instructor's PowerPoints, course syllabi, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, handouts, etc.
 - *Falsifying or misrepresenting* the student's own academic work.
 - *Plagiarism*: Using or appropriating another's work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own.
 - *Multiple Submissions*: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor.
 - *Helping another violate* academic behavior standards.

- For more information about Academic Integrity, students may consult [The Center for Academic Integrity](#).
- For more information about plagiarism and misuse of sources, see "[Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement on Best Practices](#)".
- **Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating**
 - Students should also familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, [The Golden Rule](#). UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students' education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and when necessary respond to academic misconduct. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, suspension or expulsion from the university, and/or a "Z Designation" on a student's official transcript indicating academic dishonesty, where the final grade for this course will be preceded by the letter Z. For more information about the Z Designation, see <http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/zgrade>.

Inclusion, Safety, and Disability Accommodation at UCF

- The University of Central Florida considers the diversity of its students, faculty, and staff to be a strength and critical to its educational mission. UCF expects every member of the university community to contribute to an inclusive and respectful culture for all in its classrooms, work environments, and at campus events. Dimensions of diversity can include sex, race, age, national origin, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, intellectual and physical ability, sexual orientation, income, faith and non-faith perspectives, socio-economic class, political ideology, education, primary language, family status, military experience, cognitive style, and communication style. The individual intersection of these experiences and characteristics must be valued in our community.
- Title IX prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual misconduct, sexual violence, sexual harassment, and retaliation. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find resources available to support the victim, including confidential resources and information concerning reporting options at www.shield.ucf.edu and <http://cares.sdes.ucf.edu/>.
- If there are aspects of the design, instruction, and/or experiences within this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or accurate assessment of achievement, please notify the instructor as soon as possible and/or contact Student Accessibility Services.
- For more information on diversity and inclusion, Title IX, accessibility, or UCF's complaint processes contact:
- Title IX – EO/AA - <http://www.eeo.ucf.edu/> & askanadvocate@ucf.edu
- Disability Accommodation – Student Accessibility Services - <http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/> & sas@ucf.edu
- Diversity and Inclusion Training and Events – www.diversity.ucf.edu
- Student Bias Grievances – Just Knights response team - <http://jkrt.sdes.ucf.edu/>
- UCF Compliance and Ethics Office - <http://compliance.ucf.edu/> & complianceandethics@ucf.edu
- Ombuds Office - <http://www.ombuds.ucf.edu>

Fully online course sections (W, V)

- Though most emergency situations are primarily relevant to courses that meet in person, such incidents can also impact online students, either when they are on or near campus to participate in other courses or activities or when their course work is affected by off-campus emergencies. The following policies apply to courses in online modalities.
- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to <https://my.ucf.edu> [Links to an external site.](#) and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the toolbar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on the Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert", fill out the information, including e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK."
- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors.
- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to <https://my.ucf.edu> [Links to an external site.](#) and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the toolbar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on the Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert", fill out the information, including e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK."

- Students who are deployed active duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact their instructors as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements.
- This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.
- During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need not make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.

Required UCF Statement Regarding COVID-19

University-Wide Face Covering Policy for Common Spaces and Face-to-Face Classes

- To protect members of our community, everyone is required to wear a facial covering inside all common spaces including classrooms (<https://policies.ucf.edu/documents/PolicyEmergencyCOVIDReturnPolicy.pdf>). Students who choose not to wear facial coverings will be asked to leave the classroom by the instructor. If they refuse to leave the classroom or put on a facial covering, they may be considered disruptive (please see the [Golden Rule](#) for student behavior expectations). Faculty have the right to cancel class if the safety and well-being of class members are in jeopardy. Students will be responsible for the material that would have been covered in class as provided by the instructor.

Notifications in Case of Changes to Course Modality

- Depending on the course of the pandemic during the semester, the university may make changes to the way classes are offered. If that happens, please look for announcements or messages in Webcourses@UCF or Knights email about changes specific to this course.

COVID-19 and Illness Notification

- Students who believe they may have a COVID-19 diagnosis should contact UCF Student Health Services (407-823-2509) so proper contact tracing procedures can take place.
- Students should not come to campus if they are ill, are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, have tested positive for COVID, or if anyone living in their residence has tested positive or is sick with COVID-19 symptoms. CDC guidance for COVID-19 symptoms is located here: (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>)
- Students should contact their instructor(s) as soon as possible if they miss class for any illness reason to discuss reasonable adjustments that might need to be made. When possible, students should contact their instructor(s) before missing class.

In Case of Faculty Illness

- If the instructor falls ill during the semester, there may be changes to this course, including having a backup instructor take over the course. Please look for announcements or mail in Webcourses@UCF or Knights email for any alterations to this course.

Course Accessibility and Disability COVID-19 Supplemental Statement

- Accommodations may need to be added or adjusted should this course shift from an on-campus to a remote format. Students with disabilities should speak with their instructor and should contact sas@ucf.edu to discuss specific accommodations for this or other courses.

Spring 2021 Schedule (subject to change)

Key:



Reading



Thinking ?'s



Case Study



Assignment



Quiz/Exam

Note: All due date times are 11:59 pm unless otherwise noted.

Week 1: January 12 & 14



Chapter 1: Introduction to Animal Behavior



Chapter 1 Thinking Outside the Box ?
Due: January 28



"3 Words Reflection"
Due January 15 at 5:00 pm

Week 2: January 19 & 21



Chapter 2: Integrative Study of Behavior



Proximate vs. Ultimate Case Study
Due: January 28



Quiz 1: Due January 24

Week 3: January 26 & 28



Chapter 3: Development & Genetic Bases of Behavior



Chapter 3 Thinking Outside the Box ?
Due: February 4

Week 4: February 2 & 4



Chapter 4: Neural Basis of Behavior



Quiz 2: Due February 8



Chapter 4 Thinking Outside the Box ?
Due: February 11

Week 5: February 9 & 11



Chapter 5: Physiological Basis of Behavior



Chapter 5 Thinking Outside the Box ?
Due: February 18

Week 6: February 16 & 18



Chapter 6: Avoiding Predators & Finding Food



Quiz 3: Due February 22



Game Theory Case Study
Due: February 25

Week 7: February 23 & 25



Chapter 7: Territoriality & Migration



Chapter 7 Thinking Outside the Box ?
Due: March 4

Week 8: March 2 & 4



Chapter 8: Principles of Communication



Quiz 4: Due March 8



How Animals Use Sound to Communicate
Case Study
Due: March 11

Week 9: March 9 & 11



Chapter 9: Reproductive Behavior



Chapter 9 Thinking Outside the Box ?
Due: March 18

Week 10: March 16 & 18



Chapter 10: Mating Systems



Quiz 5: Due March 22



Chapter 10 Thinking Outside the Box ?
Due: March 25

Week 11: March 23 & 25



Chapter 11: Parental Care



Chapter 11 Thinking Outside the Box ?
Due: April 1

Week 12: March 30 & April 1



Chapter 12: Principles of Social Evolution



Quiz 6: Due April 5



Chapter 12 Thinking Outside the Box ?
Due: April 8

Week 13: April 6 & 8



Chapter 13: Social Behavior & Sociality



Chapter 13 Thinking Outside the Box ?
Due: April 15

Week 14: April 13 & 15



SPRING BREAK!
Please be safe!!!

Week 15: April 20 & 22

Ethogram of State Behaviors

- Rest: animal sits, stands, or lies immobile (not moving) with eyes open and not doing any other activity
- Locomotion: any movement by the animal (on the ground, rocks, or in trees)
- Forage: animal searches for, moves or handles, or eats food or water
- Groom: one animal runs its fingers or teeth through the fur of another
- Play: moving of objects or apparently "agonistic" and non-threatening movement that may involve another animal. Note who is involved and describe the play.
- On Move: intent, string to fur of mother
- Other: any behavior not listed above
- Out of view (ovoid): animal is not visible



Ethogram
Due April 20 by 12:00 pm



Final Reflection: Due April 22



Quiz 7: Due April 26

Final Exam Period



Final Exam: April 29

