

ZOO 4910L
Research Experience in Animal Behavior in a Zoo Environment
Spring 2021 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 Wednesday, March 17. 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 Monday, April 19. 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
Jan 3	Orientation (12:00 January 7 th , CFZ)	
Jan 10	Begin Observations	Life History Paper (1/15/21)
Jan 17	Continue Observations and Data Evaluations	Weekly Observations (1/22/21)
Jan 24	Continue Observations and Data Evaluations	Weekly Observations (1/29/21)
Jan 31	Continue Observations and Data Evaluations	Weekly Observations (2/05/21)
Feb 7	Continue Observations and Data Evaluations	Weekly Observations (2/12/21)
Feb 14	Continue Observations and Data Evaluations	Weekly Observations (2/19/21)
Feb 21	Continue Observations and Data Evaluations	Weekly Observations (2/26/21)
Feb 28	Continue Observations and Data Evaluations	Weekly Observations (3/5/21)
Mar 7	Continue Observations and Data Evaluations	Weekly Observations (3/12/21)
Mar 14	First Paper Due , Paper Review, & Observations	Weekly Observations (3/19/21)
Mar 28	Continue Observations and Data Evaluations	Weekly Observations (4/02/21)
Apr 4	Continue Observations and Data Evaluations	Weekly Observations (4/09/21)
Apr 11	SPRING BREAK	
Apr 18	Second Paper Due and Second Paper Review	

Important Dates: Add Deadline – January 15
Drop Deadline – January 15
Withdrawal Deadline – March 26

Office Hours: by appointment

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Required Statement Regarding COVID-19

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.

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.