

Animal Behavior (ZOO 4513)

Spring 2022



Tuesday/Thursday: 12:00-1:20 pm in NSC 110

Instructors

Dr. Christa Diercksen



christa.diercksen@ucf.edu



BIO 201A

Office hours will be by appointment via Zoom or conducted outside.

Teaching Assistant: Sarah Brooks



- **Email:** sabrooks06@Knights.ucf.edu
- **Office Hours:** Virtual via Zoom: Tuesday 3-4 pm; Wednesday 12-1 pm

Communication

- E-mail is the fastest and preferred way to communicate with Dr. Diercksen. Please do NOT use Webcourses messages!
- All attempts will be made to answer emails within a 24-hours, M-F and Sun. *Note: Dr. Diercksen tries to be off-line on Saturdays.*
- Faculty can ONLY communicate with students via Knightsmail.

- Please **identify yourself as an Animal Behavior student** and sign off the email with your **full name** and **UCF ID#**.
- Emails should be written in a professional and respectful manner. *Note: Florida has a very broad open records law (F.S. 119) so all emails sent to UCF email may be subject to public disclosure.*



Official Class GroupMe:

Use this link: [Animal Behavior \(ZOO 4513\) Spring 2022 GroupMe](#)

Or scan the QR code below to join



- Use this GroupMe to talk to other students in the class, ask questions about course content, set up study sessions or anything else appropriate you want to talk about! It should NOT be used to share any information about assessments or anything related to academic dishonesty. Violations may be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

Course Description

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.



General Course Objectives

Note: Individual chapter objectives can be found in each chapter overview in our Webcourses.

- 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



Course 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.



Important Information for Financial Aid Students!

Academic Activity Assignment: 3 Words Reflection: Due date: Friday, January 14, 2022 at 5:00 pm

- Faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course in order for proper distribution of financial aid.
- In order to document that you began this course, please complete the “**3 Words Reflection**” in Webcourses by the end of the first week of classes, or as soon as possible after adding the course. Failure to do so could result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid!
- This assignment is **worth 5 points** (for everyone, even non-financial aid students) and will be scored *for completion only*.



Attendance Policy

- The class will meet **in-person** during our scheduled course days and time (**T/TH from 12:00-1:20 pm**) unless pandemic conditions warrant a university approved change in course format or I am unable to attend lecture due to Covid related illness or exposure.
 - Attendance is **NOT** mandatory for lecture but encouraged for healthy students. Students who are experiencing medical symptoms of any kind or who suspect they have been exposed to COVID-19 should not attend class until medically cleared.
 - I will be wearing a mask during lecture and encourage those in attendance to do as well.
 - All assessments will be submitted in Webcourses including quizzes.
 - All course materials will be available in Webcourses.
 - Lectures will **NOT** be recorded at this time, but all Powerpoints will be available in Webcourses.
 - It is the student's responsibility to know what was covered in class if they must miss lecture. Please use the class GroupMe as your primary avenue for this information.
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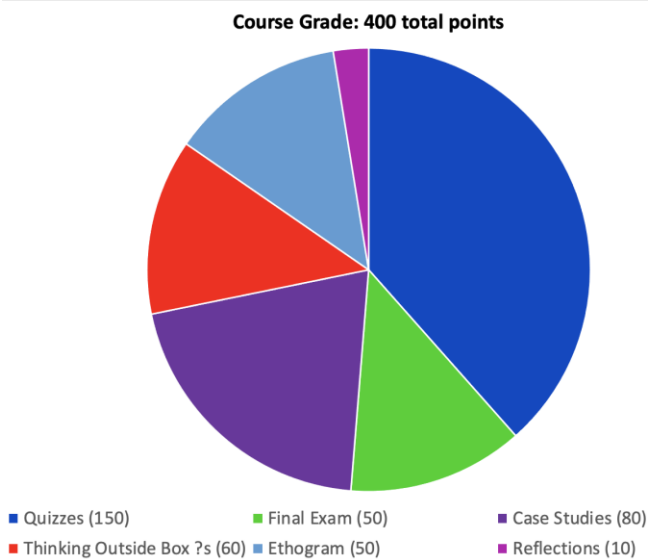
Grading

- Grades are earned by a “point system”, and individual grade categories are not weighted, e.g. one point from a quiz “counts” the same as one point from a reflection.
- 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*.
- The final course grade will be awarded using the scale seen below by calculating the percentage of your total earned points during the semester out of **400 possible points**.
- No minus grades, e.g. “A-” are given in this class.
- 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.
- **Biology majors:** A grade of “C” or higher is required to advance in your Biology coursework. For other majors, please check with your major's department for more information.
- **Withdrawal Date: March 25, 2022 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: April 25, 2022 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.

Grade Details

400 Total Semester Points



Grading Scale

A	90-100%
B+	87-89%
B	80-86%
C+	77-79%
C	70-76%
D+	67-69%
D	60-66%
F	<60%



Assignments

3 Words Reflection (5 pts.)

- **Due: Friday, January 14 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.

Ethogram (50 pts.)

- **Due: Tuesday, April 19 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 21 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.



Thinking Outside the Box Questions

- **Due dates:** Please see the Course Schedule for individual due dates.
- **Twelve (12)** “Thinking Outside the Box” questions will be answered in **groups of 4 students.**
- Each question is **worth 5 pts. for a total of 60 pts.**
- Each group’s collective response will be submitted to Webcourses to the appropriate Group Assignment.
- **Important: Only ONE answer for each question 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 pt. 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 2 students. 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. *Note: There will be no question for Chapter 13.*
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Case Studies

- **Due dates:** Please see course schedule for individual due dates.
 - Case studies are **worth 20 pts. each, 80 pts. total**
 - **Four (4)** case studies concerning course content will be reviewed during class time, typically on Thursdays. Attendance is not mandatory for case studies and necessary materials will available in Webcourses.
 - 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.
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Assessments

Webcourses Quizzes (6 quizzes, 25 pts. each, 150 pts.)

- **Due dates:** Please see the Course Schedule for individual quiz dates.
 - NO late quizzes will be allowed unless approved by Dr. Diercksen.
- Quizzes will be **open beginning at 12:01 am on Friday mornings** of a given week and will be **available until the following Tuesday at 11:59 pm.**
- Quizzes will have an **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 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 28, 11:59 pm**
 - This is not a classic cumulative exam, but it will still address major concepts from the whole semester. Content from Chapter 13 will also be on the Final Exam.
 - The Final Exam will consist of both multiple-choice questions and free response questions.
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Important Information for Online Assessments

- Students will need reliable access to *at the very least*, a smart phone or tablet although a computer (PC running Windows or Mac OS) 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 quizzes or exams.
 - Select a location where you won't be interrupted when taking online assessments.
 - If it is not an open notes assessment, 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.
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Course Schedule

- Please use the course schedule found below as well as the dynamic course schedule in Webcourses to know the important due dates and which course topics are covered each week. These due dates are also reflected in the Webcourses' Calendar.
 - It is the student's responsibility to know when things are due!
 - Dr. Diercksen reserves the right to make changes if necessary to the course schedule, updating when needed and will notify students of any significant changes.
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Quick Links to Resources



407-823-5555
or 911



[Student Handbook](#)



[UCF Cares](#)



[Accessibilities](#) [Academic Resources](#)



UCF Official Policy Statements

Required UCF Statement Regarding COVID-19

Statement Regarding Masks in Classrooms

- UCF **EXPECTS** that all members of our campus community who are able to do so **get vaccinated and boosted**, and we **EXPECT** all members of our campus community to wear masks indoors, [in line with the latest CDC guidelines](#). Masks are required in approved clinical or health care settings.

Notifications in Case of Changes to Course Modality

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

COVID-19 and Illness Notification

- Students who believe they may have been exposed to COVID-19 or who test positive must 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 or have tested positive for COVID-19.
- Students should contact their instructor(s) as soon as possible if they miss class for any illness to discuss reasonable adjustments that might need to be made. When possible, students should contact their instructor(s) before missing class.

Code of Conduct

- 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>
- 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.

In-class Recording

- Students may, without prior notice, record video or audio of a class lecture for a class in which the student is enrolled for their own personal educational use.
- A class lecture is defined as a formal or methodical oral presentation as part of a university course intended to present information or teach enrolled students about a particular subject.

- Recording class activities other than class lectures, including but not limited to lab sessions, student presentations (whether individually or part of a group), class discussion (except when incidental to and incorporated within a class lecture), clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving student participation, test or examination administrations, field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty member, and invited guest speakers is prohibited.
- Recordings may not be used as a substitute for class participation and class attendance and may not be published or shared without the written consent of the faculty member. Failure to adhere to these requirements may constitute a violation of the University's Student Code of Conduct as described in the Golden Rule.

Spring 2022 Schedule (subject to change)

Key:				
				
Reading	Thinking ?'s	Case Study	Assignment	Quiz/Exam
<i>Note: All due date times are 11:59 pm unless otherwise noted.</i>				




Week 1: January 11 & 13



 Chapter 1: Introduction to Animal Behavior	 3 Words Reflection: Due 1/14 at 5:00 pm
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Week 2: January 18 & 20



 Chapter 2: Integrative Study of Behavior	 Chapter 1 Thinking Outside the Box?: Due 1/20
 Proximate vs. Ultimate Case Study in lecture	



Week 3: January 25 & 27



 Chapter 3: Development & Genetic Bases of Behavior	 Chapter 2 Thinking Outside the Box?: Due 1/27
 Quiz 1: Due 1/25	 Prox. vs. Ultimate Case Study Quiz: Due 1/27




Week 4: February 1 & 3



 Chapter 4: Neural Basis of Behavior	 Chapter 3 Thinking Outside the Box?: Due 2/3
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Week 5: February 8 & 10



 Chapter 5: Physiological Basis of Behavior	 Chapter 4 Thinking Outside the Box?: Due 2/10
 Quiz 2: Due 2/8	





Week 6: February 15 & 17



 Chapter 6: Avoiding Predators & Finding Food	 Chapter 5 Thinking Outside the Box?: Due 2/17
 Delicate Balance Case Study in lecture	




Week 7: February 22 & 24



 Chapter 7: Territoriality & Migration	 Chapter 6 Thinking Outside the Box?: Due 2/24
 Quiz 3: Due 2/22	 Delicate Balance Case Study Quiz: Due 2/24

Week 8: March 1 & 3



 Chapter 8: Principles of Communication	 Chapter 7 Thinking Outside the Box?: Due 3/3
 How Animals Use Sound to Communicate Case Study in lecture	





Week 9: March 8 & 10



Spring Break!
Please be safe!!!



Week 10: March 15 & 17



 Chapter 9: Reproductive Behavior	 Chapter 8 Thinking Outside the Box?: Due 3/17
 Quiz 4: Due 3/15	 How Animals Use Sound to Communicate Case Study Quiz: Due 3/17




Week 11: March 22 & 24



 Chapter 10: Mating Systems	 Chapter 9 Thinking Outside the Box?: Due 3/24
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Week 12: March 29 & 31



 Chapter 11: Parental Care	 Chapter 10 Thinking Outside the Box?: Due 3/31
 Quiz 5: Due 3/29	





Week 13: April 5 & 7



 Chapter 12: Principles of Social Evolution	 Chapter 11 Thinking Outside the Box?: Due 4/7
 Guarding Behavior Case Study in lecture	



Week 14: April 12 & 14




 Chapter 13: Social Behavior & Sociality	 Chapter 12 Thinking Outside the Box?: Due 4/14
 Quiz 6: Due 4/12	 Guarding Behavior Case Study Quiz: Due 4/14

Week 15: April 19 & 21



 Ethogram: Due 4/19 by 12:00 pm	 Final Reflection: Due 4/21
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 Final Exam: 4/28: Available for 24 hours (12:00 am-11:59 pm)
