

Animal Behavior (ZOO 4513-0001)

Spring 2023

Monday/Wednesday: 12:00-1:20 pm in CB2 206



Instructor: Dr. Christa Diercksen



Communication

- **Email:** christa.diercksen@ucf.edu
 - **Office hours:** Office hours will be **by appointment** in-person (**BIO 201A**) or via Zoom.
 - 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 Knightmail when using email.
 - Please **identify yourself as an Animal Behavior student by section (M/W)** 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!*
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Course Description

- *Credit hours:* 3
 - *Course Prerequisites:* Ecology (PCB 3044)
 - *Purpose of the course:* ZOO 4513 is an upper-division elective Biology course that explores the topics of Animal Behavior with a comparative and integrative approach linking evolutionary mechanisms with ecological and environmental factors that influence how animals behave. This course can satisfy Biology majors' upper-division restricted elective requirements, with particular value for zoology, pre-veterinary and other pre-health students.
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General Course Objectives & Topics

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.

Course Topics:

- Modern techniques of studying animal behavior
- Genetic, neural and physiological basis of behavior
- Predation avoidance and foraging behavior
- Territoriality and migratory behavior
- Communication behavior
- Mating systems, reproductive and parental care behavior
- Social evolution and behavior



Course Materials



- “*Animal Behavior, 12th Edition*” by Dustin R. Rubenstein; ISBN: 978-0197564912
- Students are expected to read the chapter for a given week prior to lecture.
- Other readings or background information and/or links will be provided in Webcourses.
- Students should bring a Wi-Fi enabled digital device to access course materials during lectures when necessary.
- We may occasionally use **Kahoot!** in class to check content knowledge. Students can download the free app for iOS or Android here: [Kahoot! Mobile App](#)



Academic Activity Assignment

- **Academic Activity Assignment: 3-Words Reflection: Due: Fri, 1/13 at 5:00 pm**
 - To document you began this course, complete the “**3-Words Reflection**” in Webcourses; 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*.
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Attendance Policy

- The class will meet **in-person** during our scheduled course days and time (**M/W from 12:00-1:20 pm**).
- Attendance is not mandatory for lecture but is encouraged for healthy students. In general, students who regularly attend lectures gain a fuller understanding of course material particularly as it pertains to deeper analysis as well as having the opportunity to ask questions and learn through group discussions.
- 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.
- All assessments will be submitted in Webcourses including quizzes and exams.
- All course materials in addition to the textbook will be available in Webcourses.
- Lectures will not be recorded, but all Powerpoint slides will be available in Webcourses.
- It is the student's responsibility to know what was covered in class if they must miss lecture.



Grading

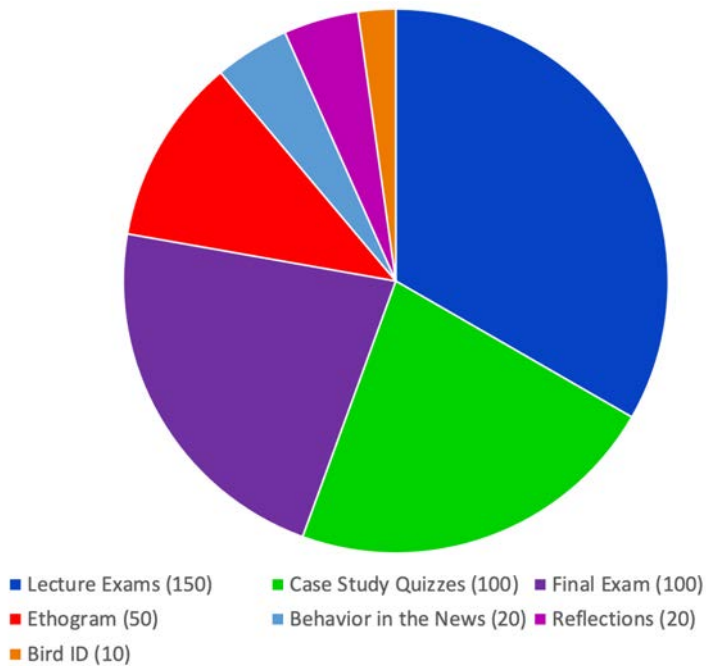
- Grades are earned by a “point system”, and individual grade categories are not weighted, e.g. one point from a quiz counts the same as one point from a reflection.
- Grades will be posted in Webcourses as available but are NOT to be considered official grades at any one given moment.
- No grades will 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 **450 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 24, 2023 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/medical withdrawals and incompletes are granted for only very compelling and documented reasons.
- **Grade Forgiveness Date: April 24, 2023 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

450 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

Details for all assignments can be found in the appropriate area in Webcourses' Assignment section.

3-Words Reflection (10 pts.)

- **Due: Friday, January 13 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.

Bird Identification by Song (10 pts.)

- **Due: Friday, January 27 at 11:59 pm**
- No late submissions will be accepted unless documentation is approved by Dr. Diercksen.
- Students will record and attempt to identify a songbird by its song.
- The recordings will be submitted in Webcourses.

Animal Behavior in the News (20 pts.)

- **Due: Friday, March 10 at 11:59 pm**
- No late submissions will be accepted unless documentation is approved by Dr. Diercksen.
- Each student will be asked to share a current article about research on animal behavior or a new animal behavior discovery.
- A link to the article and brief summary will be submitted to our Webcourses' Discussion board.

Ethogram (50 pts. total)

- **Due: Selection of Animal (5 pts.): Friday, February 3 at 11:59 pm**
- **Due: Completed Ethogram (45 pts.): Monday, April 17 at 12:00 pm (class time)**
- No late submissions will be accepted unless documentation is approved by Dr. Diercksen.
- This assignment will ask students to observe an animal, recording and analyzing their behavior.
- 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 (10 pts.)

- **Due: Monday, April 24 at 11:59 pm**
 - This reflection will ask students to think about the course as the semester is ending.
 - The reflection will be scored *for completion only*.
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Exams/Quizzes

Lecture Exams (3 exams, 50 pts. each, 150 total pts.)

- **Due dates:** Please see the course schedule for individual exam dates.
- Makeup exams may be allowed with approved documentation submitted to Dr. Diercksen within 48 hours of missing the exam due date. If Dr. Diercksen allows a late submission for an unexcused reason, a -10% penalty will be taken from the exam grade.
- Exams 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.**
- Exams will have an **80-minute time limit** once a student begins, and only **one attempt** will be allowed per exam.
- These exams are considered open notes, but students are expected to complete them on their own with no assistance from other individuals.
- Students do not need to use a Webcam while taking the exam or any special browser.
- Exams will consist of multiple-choice questions.
- Specific content for each exam will be announced in lecture and in Webcourses announcements but, in general, they will cover the content of the previous few weeks.

Case Study Quizzes (6 quizzes—lowest dropped, 20 pts. each, 100 total pts.)

- **Due dates:** Please see the course schedule for individual due dates.
 - Makeup quizzes may be allowed with approved documentation submitted to Dr. Diercksen within 48 hours of missing the quiz due date. If Dr. Diercksen allows a late submission for an unexcused reason, a -10% penalty will be taken from the quiz grade.
 - Six (6) case studies exploring course content will be conducted during class time.
 - Attendance on case study days is not mandatory however working on case studies in groups and participating in larger classroom discussion about the case studies will give students a higher degree of potential success on the case study quizzes.
 - Some case studies may have pre-class reading or videos (available in Webcourses) with additional content provided during the lecture period the case study is discussed.
 - Assessment of the case studies will be **individual quizzes conducted in Webcourses.**
 - Case Study quizzes will be **available in Webcourses the Friday the week the case study is discussed in class** and **available for 1 week** (see due dates on the course schedule).
 - The case study quizzes are considered **open notes**, but students are expected to complete them on their own with no assistance from other individuals.
 - Students do not need to use a Webcam while taking the exam or any special browser.
 - Case study quizzes have an 80-minute time limit once a student begins, and only **one attempt** will be allowed per quiz.
 - The lowest score will be dropped from the final grade calculation. If a student misses a quiz for an unapproved reason, the missed (zero) grade will be used for the dropped score.
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Final Exam (100 pts.):

- **Due: Wednesday, April 26, 11:59 pm (open at 12:00 am on 4/26)**
 - A makeup Final Exam may be allowed with approved documentation submitted to Dr. Diercksen within 48 hours of missing the Final Exam due date. If Dr. Diercksen allows a late submission for an unexcused reason, a -10% penalty will be taken from the quiz grade.
 - The Final Exam will cover content from the last part of the semester as well as some overall questions concerning semester long content.
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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.
 - Students will need the ability to access the internet on a regular and reliable manner.
 - Avoid using public WiFi (e.g. Starbucks) which may prevent you from accessing Webcourses.
 - It is recommended you access Webcourses through the Google Chrome browser.
 - Student do not need a Webcam for quizzes or exams nor a special browser.
 - Select a location where you will not be interrupted when taking online assessments.
 - Before starting the test, know how much time is available for it, and that you have allotted sufficient time to complete it.
 - Don't submit your quiz/exam until ready. Quizzes & exams will have only 1 attempt.
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Course Schedule

- Use the course schedule below for important due dates and to know 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](#)

Spring 2023 Schedule (subject to change)

Key:



Reading



Case Study



Assignment



Quiz/Exam

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



Week 1: January 9 & 11



Chapter 1: Introduction to Animal Behavior



3-Word Reflection: Due 1/13 at 5:00 pm



Week 2: January 16 & 18

Note: No class on 1/16 due to the MLK Day holiday.



Chapter 2: Integrative Study of Behavior



Deadly Passion Case Study



Week 3: January 23 & 25



Chapter 3: Developmental
& Molecular Bases of Behavior



Deadly Passion CS Quiz: Due 1/27
Exam 1: Open 1/27



Bird ID by Song: Due 1/27



Week 4: January 30 & February 1



Chapter 4: Neural Basis of Behavior



Exam 1: Due 1/31



Hawaiian Crickets Case Study



Ethogram Animal Selection: Due 2/3



Week 5: February 6 & 8



Chapter 5: Physiological & Endocrine Basis of Behavior



Hawaiian Crickets Case Study Quiz: Due 2/10



Week 6: February 13 & 15



Chapter 6: Avoiding Predators & Finding Food



Game Theory Case Study



Week 7: February 20 & 22



Chapter 7: Territoriality & Movement



Game Theory Case Study Quiz: Due 2/24
Exam 2: Open 2/24



Week 8: February 27 & March 1



Chapter 8: Principles of Communication



Exam 2: Due 2/28



How Animals Use Sound to Communicate CS



Week 9: March 6 & 8



Chapter 9: Reproductive Behavior



How Animals Use Sound to Communicate CS Quiz:
Due 3/10



Animal Behavior in the News: Due 3/10



Spring Break: March 13-17



Week 10: March 20 & 22



Chapter 10: Mating Systems



Exam 3: Open 3/24



Week 11: March 27 & 29



Chapter 11: Parental Care



Exam 3: Due 3/28



Mom Always Liked You Best Case Study



Week 12: April 3 & 5



Chapter 12: Principles of Social Evolution



Mom Always Liked You Best CS Quiz: Due 4/7



Week 13: April 10 & 12



Chapter 13: Social Behavior & Sociality



My Brother's Keeper Case Study



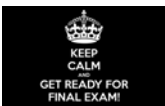
Week 14: April 17 & 19



Ethogram: Due 4/17 by 12:00 pm



My Brother's Keeper Case Study Quiz: Due 4/21



Week 15: April 24 (last lecture day) & 26



Final Reflection: Due 4/24



Final Exam: 4/26, Open 24 hrs.

UCF Official Policy Statements

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.