

ZOO 4910L
Research Experience in Animal Behavior in a Zoo Environment
Summer 2023 Syllabus

Instructor: Mr. Frank T. Logiudice
Office: Biology Building, Room 202 C
Office Phone Number: (407)-823-2495
Email Address: Frank.Logiudice@ucf.edu

Website: See UCF Webcourses

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 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. These observations will be due by 4:50pm on the Friday of that week and must be emailed to the instructor as an MS Word document.
- 3) Your first paper is due on Tuesday, July 11. 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. The paper must be emailed to the instructor as an MS Word document.
- 4) Later that week the student and instructor will meet, as requested by the student, at a time to be determined to discuss your paper.
- 5) Your second paper is due on Tuesday, August 1. 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 paper must be emailed to the instructor as an MS Word document.
- 6) 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 ten 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 10 July. The second paper is worth 130 points and is due on 1 August.

Total points available is 310.

Grading Scale:

A = 310 -> 2279

B = 278 -> 247

C = 246 -> 215

D = 214 -> 183

F = 1821 -> 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
May 7	Orientation (12:00 May 11 th , CFZ)	
May 14	Begin Observations	Life History Paper (5/19/23)
May 21	Continue Observations and Data Evaluations	Weekly Observations (5/26/23)
May 28	Continue Observations and Data Evaluations	Weekly Observations (6/02/23)
June 4	Continue Observations and Data Evaluations	Weekly Observations (6/09/23)
June 11	Continue Observations and Data Evaluations	Weekly Observations (6/16/23)
June 18	Continue Observations and Data Evaluations	Weekly Observations (6/23/23)
June 25	Continue Observations and Data Evaluations	Weekly Observations (6/30/23)
July 2	Continue Observations and Data Evaluations	Weekly Observations (7/07/23)
July 9	First Paper Due (7/10) Continue Observations	Weekly Observations (7/14/23)
July 16	Continue Observations and Data Evaluations	Weekly Observations (7/21/22)
July 23	Continue Observations and Data Evaluations	Weekly Observations (7/28/23)
July 30	Second Paper Due and Second Paper Review	Second Paper Due (8/01/223)

Important Dates: Add Deadline – May 19
Drop Deadline – May 19
Withdrawal Deadline – July 7

Office Hours: By appointment