**ZOO 4910L**

**Research Experience in Animal Behavior in a Zoo Environment**

**Summer 2024 Syllabus**

**Instructor**: Mr. Frank T. Logiudice

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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. Those observations will be submitted weekly to the instructor (see below) to ensure that you are on track to have a productive study. You will also be responsible for researching and reviewing the pertinent scientific literature relating to your study. Regardless of the focus of your study you will need to support your research papers with literature citations.

**Learning Outcomes:** The purpose of this course is to give you an understanding of

conducting animal research, reviewing and evaluating scientific literature, data collection and analysis, and writing scientific papers.

**Assignments:** You willcoordinate 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. The focus of the study will be determined by the student, the zoo personal, and the instructor. The focus will form the basis of your hypothesis.
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 observations will be submitted weekly excepting Spring Break. They can be submitted electronically.
4. Your first paper is due on Tuesday July 9th. 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 scientific format. The paper must be emailed to the instructor as an MS Word document.
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 Tuesday July 30th. 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 be study specific. Your final product should be in the style of a scientific research article and be in a format that is ready for review as if it was to be submitted for publication. The paper must be emailed to the instructor as an MS Word document.
7. Note: Your final paper will be submitted to the Central Florida Zoo by the instructor. This way the zoo and the animal (-s) that you studied can benefit from your research.
8. Later that week the student and instructor will meet as requested by the student, at a time to be determined to discuss your paper.

**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 9 July. The second paper is worth 130 points and is due on 30 July.

Total points available is 310.

Grading Scale:

A = 310 -> 279

B = 278 -> 248

C = 247 -> 217

D = 216 -> 186

F = 185 -> 0

Note: +/- grades are not used in this class.

## COURSE OUTLINE

**Week Activities Assignments Due**

May 5 Orientation (1:00 May 9th, CFZ)

May 12 Begin Observations Life History Paper (5/17/24)

May 19 Continue Observations and Data Evaluations Weekly Observations (5/24/24)

May 26 Continue Observations and Data Evaluations Weekly Observations (5/31/24)

June 2 Continue Observations and Data Evaluations Weekly Observations (6/07/24)

June 9 Continue Observations and Data Evaluations Weekly Observations (6/14/24)

June 16 Continue Observations and Data Evaluations Weekly Observations (6/21/24)

June 23 Continue Observations and Data Evaluations Weekly Observations (6/28/24)

June 30 Continue Observations and Data Evaluations Weekly Observations (7/05/24)

July 7 First Paper Due, Paper Review (07/09/24) Weekly Observations (7/12/24)

July 14 Continue Observations and Data Evaluations Weekly Observations (7/19/24)

July 21 Continue Observations and Data Evaluations Weekly Observations (7/26/24)

July 28 Second Paper Due and Second Paper Review Second Paper Due (07/30/23)

**Important Dates**: Add Deadline – May 17

Drop Deadline – May 17

Withdrawal Deadline – July 5

**Office Hours:** A term by appointment

B term MTWR 2:30-1:30 and by appointment

**Academic Honesty:** Students should familiarize themselves with UCF’s [Rules of Conduct](https://scai.sdes.ucf.edu/student-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.
* Use of AI Generated Assignments: All of the work submitted by the student must be the student’s own work and not partially or completely AI generated.

For more information about Academic Integrity, students may consult [The Center for Academic IntegrityLinks to an external site.](https://academicintegrity.org/).

For more information about plagiarism and misuse of sources, see “[Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement on Best PracticesLinks to an external site.](http://wpacouncil.org/node/9)”.

#### 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.](https://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/64/2019/09/2019-2020-Golden-Rule.pdf)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>.

**Course Accessibility Statement:** The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need specific access in this course, such as accommodations, should contact the professor as soon as possible to discuss various access options. Students should also connect with [Student Accessibility Services](http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/) (Ferrell Commons, 7F, Room 185, [sas@ucf.edu](mailto:sas@ucf.edu), phone (407) 823-2371). Through Student Accessibility Services, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential access and accommodations that might be reasonable.

**Military Activity Statement:** 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.

**Title IX** **Statement:** 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 https://letsbeclear.ucf.edu and http://cares.sdes.ucf.edu/.

**Research Intensive Course Statement**: ZOO 4910L Is designated as a Research-Intensive (RI) course. This designation will be noted on your transcripts. Your active engagement in the research and/or creative scholarship process will be the core of your learning experience in this course. A significant portion of your grade for **ZOO 4910L**will be derived from both your active participation in the research process and the tangible course-related project(s) that comes out of said project. If you have any questions about this designation, please ask your course instructor.