

Syllabus for Animal Behavior

Bio 4335: Fall 2008

Class web site: <http://www.wtamu.edu/~rmatlack/bio4335.htm>

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Office Hours: T 12:00-1:00, Th 12:00-1:00 & 2:15-3:15. I would be happy to schedule an appointment to meet with you at anytime I am available. You may schedule an appointment to meet with me via email or phone. I check my email and voice mail several times each day and will promptly reply to your messages.

Text Book: *Animal Behavior: an Evolutionary Approach*, 8th Edition. John Alcock.

Course Content: This course will provide the student with a detailed understanding of animal behavior. Students will become familiar with ultimate and proximate causes of behavior, the development and control of behavior, adaptive behaviors, communication, reproduction and mating systems, parental care and social behavior. Additionally, students will be exposed to the study of animal behavior by reading scientific articles.

Course Objectives:

1. Understand the ultimate and proximate causes of behavior
2. Examine the influence of heredity and environment on the development of animal behavior
3. Develop an understanding of the mechanisms that control behavior
4. Examine adaptive behaviors such as antipredator adaptations
5. Practice reading and interpreting scientific articles and develop an understanding of the science of studying animal behavior
6. Understand the evolution, importance and modes of communication
7. Examine behaviors associated with reproduction
8. Further your ability to think analytically and critically about information presented to you in class and in your readings
9. Practice interpreting and analyzing data presented in graphs

Class Policies:

Attendance - I cannot imagine that you will find it possible to master this material without regular class attendance. Regardless of whether you are in class or not, however, you are responsible for everything which is discussed in lecture, any announcements made in class, everything which is assigned as class reading, and any handouts which are given in class. If you miss class, you must make your own arrangements for access to class notes or handouts from classes that you miss. **I will not provide copies of my class notes** except under very rare circumstances (serious injury, surgery, etc.) and by PRIOR arrangement only.

Grading – Your grade will be based on your performance on 4 exams (3, 100-point lecture exams and a 100-point final exam). The final exam will not be cumulative. Extra credit will not be given.

Grade scale: A= 90-100%
 B= 80-89%
 C= 70-79%
 D= 60-69%
 F= 0-59%

Tentative Lecture Exam Dates:

Exam 1	THU, 8 September
Exam 2	TUE, 14 October
Exam 3	THU, 6 November
Final Exam	TUE, 9 December, 8:30 am

Evaluation:

	<u>Points</u>	<u>Total</u>
Exams	100 pts each	400

Lecture content:

The book presents information in a very logical order and we will follow the order of the text in our lectures. However, I draw heavily from outside sources in my lectures and will regularly assign outside reading to supplement the textbook. **NOTE: I will include questions on the exam that pertain to assigned readings.**

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Reading</u>
Introduction to Animal Behavior, Science and Natural Selection	CH 1
Proximate and Ultimate Causes of Behavior	CH 2
Development of Behavior	CH 3
Control of Behavior	CH 4
Organization of Behavior	CH 5
Adaptive Behavior	CH 6
Feeding Behavior	CH 7
Habitat Selection	CH 8
Communication	CH 9
Reproductive Behavior	CH 10
Mating systems	CH 11
Parental Care	CH 12
Social Behavior	CH 13*
Human Behavior	CH 14*

*Time permitting

Makeup exams – All exams must be taken at the times announced in class or in the syllabus. Make up exams will be possible only with a doctor’s letter or letter of absence for a school-sponsored event. If you have a

serious reason for missing an exam, you must contact me BEFORE the scheduled exam period to notify me that you cannot take the exam (again, written documentation is required). You are then responsible for arranging with me to make up the test or quiz within two days of your return to campus.

Note: Exams are subject to change and I reserve the right to change any and all information contained in the syllabus.

Academic dishonesty - If you are uncertain about what constitutes academic dishonesty, please read the appropriate sections in the Code of Student Life (see additional information at the end of this syllabus). I will have zero tolerance for academic dishonesty. Instances of dishonesty will be punished to the fullest extent possible, including the receipt of a failing grade for the course. Take care to avoid the appearance of cheating! During exams keep your eyes on your own paper, keep books and bags closed, and put all paper away (additional information regarding academic dishonesty is provided below).

Students with Disabilities:

WTAMU seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified persons with disabilities. This University will adhere to all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to register with Disability Support Services and to contact the faculty member in a timely fashion to arrange for suitable accommodations.

Copyright:

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Safety:

Safety is everyone's responsibility. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) are provided for all chemicals used in this class. MSDSs provide information about physical properties, health risks, fire and explosion data, and other important information associated with these chemicals. Before handling or using a chemical, you should refer to the MSDS for that chemical. It is your responsibility to inform the instructor in writing of any health conditions that may prevent you from safely using a chemical (pregnancy, auto immune deficiency, etc.). It is also the responsibility of the student to report any spills or problems found while storing or using a chemical. If you are unsure about a chemical, always ask. If you see any unsafe condition, notify your instructor immediately. If you are unsure about the proper and safe operation of any piece of equipment, ask your instructor for proper instruction. All injuries, spills of materials and unsafe conditions must be reported to the instructor immediately.

Evacuation:

When you receive notice to evacuate the building, please evacuate promptly but in an orderly manner. Evacuation routes are posted in various locations indicating all exits, outside assembly area, location of fire extinguishers, fire alarm pull stations, and emergency telephone numbers (651-5000 or 911). In the event an evacuation is necessary, evacuate immediately; do not use elevators; take all personal belongings with you; report to outside assembly area and wait for further information; students needing assistance in the evacuation process should bring this to the attention of the instructor at the beginning of the semester.

Scholastic Dishonesty:

It is the responsibility of students and instructors to help maintain scholastic integrity at the University by refusing to participate in or tolerate scholastic dishonesty. Commission of any of the following acts shall constitute scholastic dishonesty. This listing is not exclusive of any other acts that may reasonably be said to constitute scholastic dishonesty: acquiring or providing information for any assigned work or examination from any unauthorized source; informing any person or persons of the contents of any examination prior to the time the examination is given in subsequent sections of the course or as a makeup; plagiarism, submission of a paper or project that is substantially the same for two courses unless expressly authorized by the instructor to do so. (2008-2009, CODE OF STUDENT LIFE, Rules and Procedures for Students, West Texas A&M University).

A complete statement regarding scholastic dishonesty can be found in the Student Code of Life at <http://www.wtamu.edu/administrative/ss/code/code.html#procedures>.