

SYLLABUS

INTRODUCTION

You will watch streaming video of this course as it was being offered on campus last spring. I have found that these streams look better on a Windows machine than on a Mac due to the formatting, although either operating system will work. For the Mac users, you might refer to the PDF file for each lecture on which you can see the outline more clearly, but you only see the LAST picture that was shown on many slides.

Although you will not be able to directly interact with fellow students or the faculty DURING any lecture, you are encouraged to do so at any time later via email or Blackboard.

You should be spending about 10 hours per week on this course alone (that includes the time to watch the video, read the textbook, do library work, etc.). If it seems you are spending more time than this, please let me know. I will see if adjustments need to be made; I want to be flexible enough for you to get the most out of this course and your graduate school experience. Therefore, I don't want other work to suffer just because you are spending too much time (more than 10 hrs/week) with this course.

TEXTBOOK

Animal Behavior: An Evolutionary Approach, by John Alcock, 9th Edition. This is an interesting approach to the study of behavior and quite easy to read. (I don't have a copy of this book yet, but expect to any day now.) You will be responsible for material in the book whether covered in lecture or not.

GRADING

I expect that your grades will be based on a total of 600 points, as follows. At the end of the semester, an A+ \geq 588 pts; A \geq 552-587 pts; A- \geq 540-551 pts; B+ = 528-539 pts; B = 492-527 pts; B- = 480-492 pts; C+ = 468-479 pts; C = 432-467 pts; C- = 420-431 pts; D+ = 408-419 pts; D = 372-407 pts; D- = 360-371 pts; F \leq 359 pts. If the total changes, the percentages will still be followed.

EXAMS

There will be 2 1-hour exams (100 pts. each) plus a comprehensive final exam (100 pts.). These will consist of multiple choice questions. Topics covered on exams will be from lectures, textbook readings, handout material, and information presented in films (you should have 3 to 5 pages of notes per hour of film). Films will either be available free online, or for cheap rental via iTunes. Each test will be scaled, based on class's median score.

LAB

As an online class, you will not have an actual lab. You will conduct a research project dealing with animal behavior. It will include a bibliography, and field notes, each worth 50 points, a PowerPoint presentation and a written ethogram each worth 100 points.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Chapt.	Date	Topic	Chapt.
23 May	Evolutionary Approach		1 Jul	Ecology of Behavior	7
25	Natural Selection	1	4	HOLIDAY	7
27	Genes	1	6	Black-Headed Gull, Green Heron	7
30	HOLIDAY	3	8	Costs vs. Benefits	7
1 Jun	Single-gene Effects	3	8-13	SECOND EXAM	4 - 7
3	Genes & Development	3	11	Diversity of Diets	
6	Developmental Homeostasis	3	13	Antipredator Behavior	7
8	Categories of Behavior	4	15	Evading Predators	6
10	Diversity of Behavior	4	18	Sexual Reproduction	11
13	Flexible Learning	8	20	Sexual Selection	10
15	Rules of Behavior	8	22	Alternative Mating	14
15-20	FIRST EXAM	1,3,4,8	22-27	COMPREHENSIVE} FINAL EXAM}	9,10,12-14
17	Neural Mechanisms	4			
20	Physiology of Feeding	5			
22	Predator Evasion	5			
24	Control Systems	6			
27	Vertebrate Motivation	6			
29	Changing Priorities	6			