

Animal Behavior (ABIO 598N) Spring 2008

Instructor:

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Lecture: SBDG 107: TTH 10:50AM – 12:05PM

Lab: SBDG 103: T 1:40PM-4:20PM

Textbook: Animal Behavior 5th Edition, Drickamer

Lab Manual: Animal Behavior Laboratory Manual and Writing Guide, Vieyra

Required Saturday Field Trip: March 22, 9am- 4pm

Course Description and Objectives: In this course we will investigate animal behavior within an evolutionary context. We will examine the mechanistic side of behavior- how animals collect and process information from the environment and how they respond to it. We will also explore the evolutionary side of behavior – what advantages do mechanistic traits and behaviors have and why have they evolved over time. After completing this course you should understand basic concepts in behavioral biology and be familiar with many of the experiments that have facilitated our understanding of animal behavior. Through hands on experimentation in the laboratory portion of this course you will also become practiced at constructing hypotheses, designing experiments, and analyzing data that addresses behavioral phenomena.

Evaluation:

Exams: There will be four lecture exams throughout the semester as noted on the calendar. They will only cover the material given since the previous exam and be worth 100 points each. Expect a combination of multiple-choice, matching, true/false, fill in the blank, short answer and essay questions on each exam.

Writing assignment: Your writing assignment will be to write a research proposal for an experiment in animal behavior. You will be graded on how well you researched your topic – a minimum of 5 primary research articles will be required, as well as how well your experimental design reflects an understanding of what makes a good experiment. More information on this assignment will be given out soon.

Lab Reports: You will write 2 lab reports worth 25 points each. Although you will conduct experiments as a group the paper must be an individual effort. “Sharing” the effort will result in a zero for everyone involved. More information on how to write a proper lab report will be given in lab.

Group Presentations: You will give 2 group presentations in lab worth 25 points each. This will be a group effort and everyone in the group will receive the same grade. The presentation will be in the form of an oral lab report and more information on what you need to include in your presentations will be given in lab.

Short Proposals: In the lab you will be designing your own experiments and coming up with reasonable, testable hypotheses. You will do this as a group and turn in 3 short proposals worth 10 points each. Everyone in the group receives the same grade and the grade will be based on how well you incorporate the principals of the scientific method.

Discussions: We will have 2 formal discussions in lab culminating in a short in class write up worth 10 points each.

Grade breakdown:

Exams (4)	100 points each	400 point total
Writing Assignment	50 points	50 points total
Lab Reports (2)	25 points each	50 points total
Presentations (2)	25 points each	50 points total
Short proposals (3)	10 points each	30 points total
Discussions (2)	10 points each	20 points total

Total: 600 points

Grading Scale:

540-600	A
510-539	B+
480-509	B
450-479	C+
420-449	C
390-419	D+
360-389	D
Below 360	F

Additional Comments:

You are expected to follow the honor pledge on every assignment:

“On my honor as a University of South Carolina at Aiken student, I have neither given nor received any unauthorized aid on the assignment/examination. To the best of my knowledge, I am not in violation of academic dishonesty.” This includes plagiarism which will be covered in more detail when I assign papers.

If you have a physical, psychological and/or learning disability which might affect your performance in this course please contact the Office of Disability Services, 126A B&E, (803)641-3609 as soon as possible.

If you have questions or need help with anything in this course please email me and set up an appointment to meet. I will generally be available every afternoon (except Tuesday) but I can not guarantee I will be in my office unless you set up an appointment with me.

Spring 2008 Animal Behavior Lecture Calendar

Date	Lecture Topic	Chapter
15-Jan	Intro, Proximate vs. Ultimate, History	1,2
17-Jan	History cont., Scientific Method	3
22-Jan	Methods cont., Examples	3
24-Jan	Genetics	4
29-Jan	Genetics cont.	5
31-Jan	Darwin, adaptation	6
5-Feb	Hardy Weinberg, Speciation	6
7-Feb	EXAM 1	
12-Feb	Neurons and the Brain	7
14-Feb	Sensory Systems	7
19-Feb	Sensory Cont.	7
21-Feb	Filters and Command Centers	7
26-Feb	Hormones I	8
28-Feb	Hormones II	8
4-Mar	Biorhythms	9
6-Mar	EXAM 2	
11-Mar	NO CLASS	
13-Mar	NO CLASS	
18-Mar	Innate Learning, Imprinting	10,11
20-Mar	Learning cont.	11
25-Mar	Communication	12
27-Mar	Communication cont., Migration/Orientation	12,13
1-Apr	Habitat Selection	14
3-Apr	Habitat Selection Cont.	14
8-Apr	EXAM 3	
10-Apr	Feeding/ Foraging	15
15-Apr	Predator/ Prey strategies	15
17-Apr	Aggression/ Dominance	16
22-Apr	Reproduction I WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE	17
24-Apr	Reproduction II, Parenting	17
6-May 11am	EXAM 4	

Spring 2008 Animal Behavior Lab Calendar

Date	Experiment	Due
22-Jan	Intro to Scientific Method, Termites	
29-Jan	Fly Taxis I	Short Proposal I
5-Feb	Fly Taxis II	
12-Feb	Predator Strategies I	Lab Report I, Short Proposal II
19-Feb	Predator Strategies II	
26-Feb	Betta Fish Sign Stimuli I	Presentation I, Short Proposal III
4-Mar	Betta Fish Sign Stimuli II	
11-Mar	NO LAB	
18-Mar	Intro to Ethograms	Presentation II
22-Mar	SATURDAY ZOO TRIP 9am-4pm	Meet at USC Aiken
25-Mar	Help with ethogram stats (optional)	
1-Apr	Human Behavior I	Lab Report II
8-Apr	Human Behavior II	Discussion I
15-Apr	Mate Selection	Discussion II
22-Apr	Sum up - Lecture Catch up	