

ANS 4932 Livestock Behavior & Welfare – Syllabus Fall 2016

Course Title

ANS 4932 Livestock Behavior & Welfare (3 credits)

Course Instructor

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Teaching Assistants: Kelsey Horvath (kchorvath@ufl.edu) and Laney Hixson (catlhixs@ufl.edu), graduate students studying Animal Behavior and Welfare in the Dept. of Animal Sciences.

Office hours

We all have an open-door policy. To make sure we will be available, you are welcome to schedule an appointment via email.

Course Description and Objectives

This is a three-credit undergraduate level course offering insights into the behavior of animals, factors influencing the expression of different behaviors, and the ways understanding behavior may be used to assess and improve animal welfare. Basic principles will be illustrated with examples drawn from a wide range of species, both domestic and wild, but the focus of the course will be on applying concepts to understand the behavior and welfare of livestock. This course involves formal lectures and group discussion.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe fundamental processes involved in development and control of behavior
- Discuss basic categories of behavior, drawing examples from different species
- Apply understanding of animal behavior to draw conclusions about animal welfare
- Consider how common management practices for livestock influence behavior and welfare
- Interpret and critically evaluate scientific literature in the field of animal behavior

Time and Location

MWF 11:45 – 12:35 (5th period)

Location: ANS 151

CLASS STRUCTURE

Course Website on Canvas: Our course website can be found through login to CANVAS (<http://elearning.ufl.edu>). I will use CANVAS as the primary means to contact with you any important announcements. Grades and assignment feedback will also be made available to you. Resources, including the course syllabus, assigned and recommended readings, supplementary references, and lesson material, will be posted in CANVAS. The lesson material (slides presented in class, as well as other related material) will be organized by topic within modules.

If you are not yet familiar with using CANVAS, please look at the Canvas 'Getting Started' Guide: guides.instructure.com/m/8470. To make sure you are not missing any announcement, please make sure your CANVAS settings are adjusted as follows:

- Go to your general **Canvas Settings** (upper right corner within CANVAS) > **Notifications** (left menu bar) > **Notification Preferences**: here set to **"ASAP"** for (at least) Announcements.

Lectures: Topics covered in the lecture will be presented with the aid of PowerPoint slides, images, and short video clips. Questions and discussion in the classroom are highly encouraged. The lecture slides posted on CANVAS will not include all details and examples discussed in the lecture, and it is recommended that you add to them while listening in class to make sure they are complete. We will have guest lectures throughout the semester, and you should expect this material to be covered on a test.

Discussion activities: There will be in-class activities during the term that will aid in your learning and provide further opportunity for discussion. These are designed to support the material covered in the previous lectures and prepare you for assignments. Attendance and participation in these activities will contribute to your 'Class Participation' grade.

The following textbook is recommended as an excellent reference:

Price, E. O. 2008. Principles & applications of domestic animal behavior. (2008) Principles and applications of domestic animal behavior. CAB International.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Assignments will be graded according to rubrics posted on CANVAS. The final grade in the course will be assigned based on numeric average, as described below.

Marking scheme:

A	89.5-100%	B+	84.5-89.4%	C+	74.5-79.4%	D+	64.5-69.4%	E	< 59.4
		B	79.5-84.4%	C	69.5-74.4%	D	59.5-64.4%		

For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

ANS 4932 Livestock Behavior & Welfare – Syllabus Fall 2016

Activity	Percentage of final grade
Test 1 – <i>September 16</i>	15%
Test 2 – <i>October 12</i>	15%
Test 3 – <i>November 18</i>	15%
Self-guided assignments (10% each, submit 3 during term)	30%
Literature review – <i>due November 14</i>	15%
Oral presentations – <i>in class November 28, 30, or December 2, 5</i>	5%
Class participation	5%

Tests: There will be three non-cumulative tests completed in-class during the semester to assess your knowledge of course material (see Class Schedule for test dates). Each test will cover material introduced since the previous test, up to and including the previous lecture day. Expect tests to consist of both multiple choice and short answer written questions. I will discuss each test briefly in-class, in advance of the test day.

Self-guided assignments: You will be responsible for completing 3 assignments, out of a choice of 5, during the semester. The due date for these assignments is flexible, but you must adhere to the final submission date for each assignment (see Class Schedule). These assignments are designed to complement lecture material that will be covered in class, and will require that you work individually outside of class: observing animals, reading additional material, or performing other activities to supplement your in-class learning. The complete guidelines and rubric for all assignments can be found on CANVAS.

Literature Review: This major class assignment will focus on a behavioral topic of your choosing (to be discussed in class on October 28 and approved by the instructor or TAs). This assignment will involve independent reading and research. You will be responsible for finding and reading 5 peer-reviewed scientific journal articles (see ‘Tips for Finding Journal Articles’ on CANVAS under the ‘Guidelines for Assignments’ module), and summarizing the relevant findings for your articles. The complete guidelines and rubric for this assignment can be found on CANVAS.

Oral presentation: Based on your behavior topic, you will be placed in a group of 3-4 students with a common theme surrounding your individual behavior topics (e.g. ‘beef cattle’, or ‘zoo animals’), and you will complete this presentation as part of a group. During your presentation, you will concisely summarize and individually present in 1 slide what you have independently learned about your behavior topic and then, as a group, you will discuss one animal welfare topic. This presentation will be discussed in class, with class time on November 21 devoted to meeting and finalizing your presentation with your group.

ANS 4932 Livestock Behavior & Welfare – Syllabus Fall 2016

Class participation: This will be evaluated based on attendance during in-class activities, and questions asked of presenting students during the oral presentations at the end of term. To ensure you receive full marks for participation, you should plan to attend all in-class activities (unless you have an excused absence, as defined below) and volunteer at least one question during lectures or class presentations.

Absences, Make-up Work, and Late Assignments

I will accept late assignments for unexcused absences, but I will deduct 10 % from your grade for every day that the assignment is late. In the case of emergencies, please contact me as soon as possible to make arrangements to turn in assignments without penalty. Requirements for class and test attendance are consistent with university policy, and reasons for absence outside this policy will be considered unexcused and may result in a grade of zero for missed tests:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Requests to re-grade an exam or assignment for any reason must be made within one week from the date the grades were assigned. Grade challenges must be submitted in writing to the instructor.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Please note that this schedule is tentative. Dates that lecture topics are discussed are subject to change as we move through the term. Any significant changes will be discussed in class in advance of the lecture.

Week	Date	Lecture Title
1	M Aug 22	Course overview
	W Aug 24	What is animal behavior?
	F Aug 26	Behavior and genetics
2	M Aug 29	Behavior and genetics
	W Aug 31	<i>In-class activity:</i> Behavior and genetics
	F Sept 2	Experience, learning, development
3	<i>M Sept 5</i>	<i>LABOR DAY – no class</i>
	W Sept 7	Experience, learning, development
	F Sept 9	Motivation
4	M Sept 12	Motivation
	W Sept 14	<i>In-class activity:</i> Motivation
	F Sept 16	TEST 1 – all material up to September 14
5	M Sept 19	Feeding behavior
	W Sept 21	Feeding behavior
	F Sept 23	<i>In-class activity:</i> Foraging
6	M Sept 26	Social behavior
	W Sept 28	Social behavior

ANS 4932 Livestock Behavior & Welfare – Syllabus Fall 2016

	F Sept 30	<i>In-class activity:</i> Social behavior Final date to submit self-guided assignments 1 and 2
7	M Oct 3	Maternal behavior
	W Oct 5	Maternal behavior
	F Oct 7	Reproductive and sexual behavior
8	M Oct 10	Reproductive and sexual behavior
	W Oct 12	TEST 2 – All material from September 19 to October 10
	<i>F Oct 14</i>	<i>HOMECOMING – no class</i>
9	M Oct 17	Abnormal behavior
	W Oct 19	Abnormal behavior
	F Oct 21	Animal welfare Final date to submit self-guided assignments 3 and 4
10	M Oct 24	Animal welfare
	W Oct 26	Animal welfare
	F Oct 28	<i>In-class activity:</i> Behavior topics (Laney and Kelsey)
11	M Oct 31	<i>Guest lecture</i> – zoo animal welfare topics – Danielle Arnold
	W Nov 2	<i>Guest lecture</i> – invertebrate welfare – Kelsey Horvath
	F Nov 4	<i>Guest lecture</i> – equine welfare topics – Dr. Carissa Wickens
12	M Nov 7	<i>Guest lecture</i> – sickness behavior – Laney Hixson
	W Nov 9	<i>In-class activity:</i> Animal welfare assessment Final date to submit self-guided assignment 5
	<i>F Nov 11</i>	<i>VETERAN’S DAY – no class</i>
13	M Nov 14	<i>Guest lecture</i> – research techniques in animal welfare - Kelsey Horvath
	W Nov 16	<i>In-class activity:</i> Questions about animal behavior
	F Nov 18	TEST 3 – All material from October 17 to November 16
14	M Nov 21	Class time to prepare for oral presentations, Literature review due
	<i>W Nov 23</i>	<i>HAPPY THANKSGIVING! - no class</i>
	<i>F Nov 25</i>	<i>HAPPY THANKSGIVING! - no class</i>
15	<i>M Nov 28</i>	<i>Class presentations</i>
	<i>W Nov 30</i>	<i>Class presentations</i>
	<i>F Dec 2</i>	<i>Class presentations</i>
16	M Dec 5	<i>Class presentations</i>
	W Dec 7	<i>Class presentations</i>
	<i>F Dec 9</i>	<i>No class</i>

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Academic Honesty

As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge: “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and

integrity.” You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

It is assumed that you will complete all work independently in each course unless the instructor provides explicit permission for you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g. assignments, papers, quizzes, exams). Furthermore, as part of your obligation to uphold the Honor Code, you should report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/SCCR/honorcodes/honorcode.php>.

Software Use

All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

Campus Helping Resources

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care:

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392- 1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center:

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)
Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

University Police Department, 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
<http://www.police.ufl.edu/>

ANS 4932 Livestock Behavior & Welfare – Syllabus Fall 2016

Academic Resources

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling.
<http://www.crc.ufl.edu/>

Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
<http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>

Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

Student Complaints Campus:
https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf

Services for Students with Disabilities

The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation

0001 Reid Hall, 352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/

Online Course Evaluation Process

Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning. At the end of the semester, students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course using a standard set of university and college criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open for students to complete during the last two or three weeks of the semester; students will be notified of the specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.