

**ANS 4932 – ANIMAL BEHAVIOR AND WELFARE**  
**Department of Animal Sciences**  
**Fall 2015**

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

**Instructor:**

Dr. Emily Miller-Cushon, Room 104E, Bldg 499, phone: 352-448-3748, email: [emillerc@ufl.edu](mailto:emillerc@ufl.edu)

There will also be guest lectures (to be announced).

**Teaching Assistant:**

Kelsey Horvath ([kchorvath@ufl.edu](mailto:kchorvath@ufl.edu)), a PhD student studying animal behavior in the Dept. of Animal Sciences.

**Office hours:** I have an open-door policy, but to make sure I will be available, please schedule an appointment via email.

**Lecture Schedule:**

MWF 11:45-12:35 (Period 5)  
Department of Animal Sciences, Room 151

**CLASS STRUCTURE**

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**Lectures:** Topics covered in the lecture will be presented with the aid of PowerPoint slides and short video clips. These topics are outlined in the lecture schedule. Questions and discussion in the classroom are highly encouraged.

Lecture slides will be posted on Canvas by 6pm on the day prior to the class (if I fail to meet this deadline, I will bring printouts to distribute in class). This set of lecture slides will not include all details and examples that are discussed in the lecture, and it is recommended that you add to them during the lecture.

**Discussion activities:** There will be 10 (subject to change, if needed) in-class activities during the term that will aid in your learning. These are designed to support the material covered in the previous lectures. Grading for these activities will depend largely on participation; see Assignments and Grading.

**Additional reading:** Additional reading will often be required for the in-class discussion activities. These readings will be described and posted to Canvas at the beginning of the week. You will also perform your own literature searches to complete assignments.

There is no required textbook for the course. However, the following is a useful reference:

Broom, D. M. and A. F. Fraser. (2007) Domestic Animal Behaviour and Welfare. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. CAB International.

## **ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING**

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Assignments, tests, and the final exam will be graded according to a numeric rubric that we will discuss. Final grade in the course will be assigned based on numeric average, as described below.

### **Marking scheme:**

<b>A</b>	92.5-100%	<b>B+</b>	86.5-89.4%	<b>C+</b>	77.5-80.4%	<b>D+</b>	67.5-69.4%	<b>E</b>	< 59.4
<b>A-</b>	89.5-92.4%	<b>B</b>	83.5-86.4%	<b>C</b>	73.5-77.4%	<b>D</b>	63.5-67.4%		
		<b>B-</b>	80.5-83.4%	<b>C-</b>	69.5-73.4%	<b>D-</b>	59.5-63.4%		

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Percentage of final grade</b>
Test 1 – <i>September 28</i>	<b>15%</b>
Test 2 – <i>November 2</i>	<b>15%</b>
In-class discussion activities (10 during term)	<b>10%</b>
Annotated bibliography – <i>due November 9</i>	<b>10%</b>
Literature review – <i>due December 9</i>	<b>20%</b>
Oral presentation – <i>in class December 7 or 9</i>	<b>5%</b>
Final exam – <i>December 18</i>	<b>25%</b>

**Tests:** There will be two non-cumulative tests during class-time (see class schedule). Expect tests to consist of both multiple choice and short answer questions. The format of each test will be discussed in more detail during class.

**In-class activities:** There will be 10 in-class activities during the term. These will usually involve reading ahead of time, and will require your active participation during class time. They will often involve individual thinking, discussion in small groups, and presentation of ideas to the class. There may be a quiz or written component to be handed in by the end of class.

Grading for in-class activities will be discussed on a case by case basis. Attendance on the day of the activity and active participation in the discussion or group work will be necessary to receive a good grade. Your final grade for in-class activities (10 % of total grade) will be determined based on your 8 best marks.

**Assignments:** A major class assignment will focus on a behavioral topic of your choosing (to be discussed in class and approved by the instructor). This assignment will involve three components: an annotated bibliography, a literature review, and an oral presentation given in class. These three components will be discussed in detail in class, with specific instructions and grading rubric made available.

*Annotated bibliography:* For your focal behavioral topic, you will review the scientific literature and select 4 papers to review. For each paper you will describe the research question, methods, and summarize the important findings.

*Literature review:* For your focal behavioral topic, you will build on your annotated bibliography, and write a literature review.

*Oral presentation:* You will prepare a presentation to be given to the class, concisely summarizing what you have learned about your behavior topic. Depending on behavior topics selected by the class, the oral presentation may be done as a group. This will be decided and discussed in class.

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

### **Absences, Make-up Work, and Late Assignments**

Classroom participation is expected and encouraged. If you miss an in-class activity, your grade for that activity will be zero and there will be no alternative assignments. However, recall that your final grade for these assignments is determined based on your 8 best in-class activities grades. Please note that I will accept late assignments, but that I will deduct 5 % from your grade for every day that the assignment is late.

An exam may not be missed without prior consent. All requests to either miss or to be excused from an exam must be submitted in writing and signed by the student regardless of the reason. Any exam missed for reasons other than those listed below will not be excused and a grade of zero will be recorded.

*Excused absences include:*

1. Absence for a university-approved field trip or activity (must be cleared one week in advance).
2. Absence for a death or serious illness in the immediate family (verification by obituary).
3. Absence resulting from personal illness (verification consisting of a letter of explanation from hospital or doctor on official letterhead).

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

In general, requirements for class attendance are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

## CLASS SCHEDULE

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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.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Lecture Title</b>
1	M Aug 24	Course overview
	W Aug 26	What is animal behavior?
	F Aug 28	<b>Discussion activity 1:</b> Questions about animal behavior
2	M Aug 31	Describing behavior
	W Sept 2	Behavior and genetics
	F Sept 4	Behavior and genetics
3	<b>M Sept 7</b>	<b>LABOR DAY – no class</b>
	W Sept 9	Experience, learning, development
	F Sept 11	Experience, learning, development
4	M Sept 14	<i>Guest lecture – Equine behavior</i>
	W Sept 16	<i>Guest lecture – Invertebrate behavior</i>
	F Sept 18	<b>Discussion activity 2:</b> Learning and cognition
5	M Sept 21	Motivation
	W Sept 23	Motivation
	F Sept 25	<b>Discussion activity 3:</b> Motivation
6	<b>M Sept 28</b>	<b>TEST 1</b>
	W Sept 30	Sensation and perception
	F Oct 2	<b>Discussion activity 4:</b> Behavior topics
7	M Oct 5	Feeding behavior
	W Oct 7	Feeding behavior
	F Oct 9	<b>Discussion activity 5:</b> Foraging
8	M Oct 12	Social behavior
	W Oct 14	Social behavior
	F Oct 16	<b>Discussion activity 6:</b> Social behavior
9	M Oct 19	Reproductive and sexual behavior
	W Oct 21	Reproductive and sexual behavior
	F Oct 23	<b>Discussion activity 7:</b> Reproduction
10	M Oct 26	Maternal behavior
	W Oct 28	Maternal behavior
	F Oct 30	<b>Discussion activity 8:</b> Parent-offspring conflict
11	<b>M Nov 2</b>	<b>TEST 2</b>
	W Nov 4	Abnormal behavior
	<b>F Nov 6</b>	<b>HOMECOMING – no class</b>
12	M Nov 9	Abnormal behavior, <b>Annotated bibliography due</b>
	<b>W Nov 11</b>	<b>VETERANS DAY – no class</b>
	F Nov 13	<b>Discussion activity 9:</b> What is animal welfare?

13	M Nov 16	Animal welfare
	W Nov 18	Animal welfare
	F Nov 20	Animal welfare
14	M Nov 23	<i>Guest lecture – Equine welfare topics</i>
	W Nov 25	<i>HAPPY THANKSGIVING! - no class</i>
	F Nov 27	<i>HAPPY THANKSGIVING! - no class</i>
15	M Nov 30	<b>Discussion activity 10:</b> Animal welfare assessment
	W Dec 2	Human-animal interactions
	F Dec 4	Human-animal interactions
16	<b>M Dec 7</b>	<b>Oral presentations</b>
	<b>W Dec 9</b>	<b>Oral presentations, Literature review due</b>
	F Dec 11	<i>No class</i>
FINALS	<b>F Dec 18</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM: 12:30 – 2:30 pm</b>

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## 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.

- University Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575, [www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/](http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/)  
Counseling Services  
Groups and Workshops  
Outreach and Consultation  
Self-Help Library  
Training Programs  
Community Provider Database
- Career Resource Center, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, [www.crc.ufl.edu/](http://www.crc.ufl.edu/)

### **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/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)

A statement informing students of the online course evaluation process. Instructors may want to identify a class period when students will be given time to complete the course evaluation in class on their laptop, tablet or smartphone. A standard statement is provided below.

### **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>.