

## ANS 4605 Animal Welfare Assessment – Syllabus Fall 2022



### **Course Title:**

ANS 4605 Animal Welfare Assessment (1 credit)

### **Time and Location:**

Synchronous classes sessions held Mondays 9:35-11:30 (3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> period)

Animal Sciences Rm 155

Topics according to the class schedule (see page 5)

### **Course Instructions and Office Hours:**

### **Instructors:**

#### **Emily Lindner, M.S.**

PhD Student, Department of Animal Sciences

[lindneremilye@ufl.edu](mailto:lindneremilye@ufl.edu)

#### **Emily Miller-Cushon, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor, Department of Animal Sciences

[emillerc@ufl.edu](mailto:emillerc@ufl.edu)

This course will be taught jointly by Dr. Miller-Cushon and Emily Lindner. Emily Lindner will be your main point of contact for this course if you have questions outside of class.

### **Course Description and Objectives:**

This course discusses components of animal welfare, ethics, and behavior to understand how to evaluate the welfare of an animal. Examples will be pulled from numerous species to provide a diverse environment for understanding animal welfare in different settings. This course involves brief lectures, group discussions, and case studies. Select students will have the opportunity to participate in a team competing in the AVMA Animal Welfare Assessment Contest (<https://www.awjac.org/>).

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

- Describe various frameworks for defining animal welfare
- Understand scientific principles used to assess an animal's welfare
- Explain current practices used in various animal settings and industries to evaluate and audit animal welfare
- Critically consider how management practices affect animal welfare and how we can implement strategies to improve animal welfare
- Form, verbally present, and defend reasons as to why some management practices provide better welfare for an animal

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### **Class Structure:**

*Course Website on Canvas:* Our course website can be found through login to Canvas (<https://elearning.ufl.edu/>). All course material, including the syllabus, lectures, and content described below, are on Canvas. Grades and assignment feedback are also posted through Canvas. I will also use Canvas as the primary means to contact with you any important announcements.

If you are not yet familiar with using Canvas, please look at the Canvas ‘Getting Started’ Guide: <https://guides.instructure.com/m/4212>. To make sure you are not missing any announcements, 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 and course contents:**

Classes will involve a combination of lecture material, discussion, and case studies. Case studies form an important component of learning in this class. They will provide practice materials for understanding and expanding knowledge on numerous topics surrounding animal welfare. We will also have unit trips where you will apply what you have learned in class to answer case studies in a real-world setting.

When lectures are delivered, PowerPoint slides will be shared with students. All materials, such as readings, videos, and practice materials may be shared in advance of class and required prior to our meeting.

Involvement in classroom discussion and participation in group activities will count towards your ‘Class Participation’ grade.

### **Communication Expectations:**

Throughout the semester, we are available after class to talk about materials or other matters. You can also email her ([lindneremilye@ufl.edu](mailto:lindneremilye@ufl.edu)) and she will respond within 24 to 48 hours, excluding weekends and holidays. We are not available to answer questions after hours or during the weekend.

Emily Lindner’s office hours are held on Thursday (10:40-11:30). She will be available via zoom and can meet in person with prior notice. See Canvas for zoom link. Office hours are times that your instructors specifically set aside to talk with students about any questions, so please attend if you would like to talk. You may need to briefly wait before joining if another student is already present. Additional meeting times are available with the instructors by appointment. Please reach out via email with any questions or to schedule a virtual face-to-face meeting.

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### Required Readings:

Readings or other material required in advance of weekly case studies and discussions will be posted on Canvas as needed.

*September 12:* papers located on Canvas

Fraser, 2009. Assessing Animal Welfare: Different Philosophies, Different Scientific Approaches

### Assignments and Grading:

Assignments will be graded according to rubrics posted on Canvas. Unless otherwise stated, you should expect timely feedback from class assignments (within approximately one week of submission). The final grade in the course will be assigned based on numeric average, as described below.

### Grading scheme:

**A** 92.5-100%    **B+** 87.5-89.4%    **C+** 77.5-79.4%    **D+** 67.5-69.4%    **E** < 59.4  
**A-** 89.5-92.4%    **B** 83.5-87.4%    **C** 73.5-77.4%    **D** 63.5-67.4%  
                          **B-** 79.5-83.4%    **C-** 69.5-73.4%    **D-** 59.5-63.4%

There will be no opportunities for make-up work or extra credit assignments, and grade point cut-offs are firm. If you have concerns regarding your grade, address them promptly. We aim to provide timely and transparent feedback throughout the semester so you know how you are progressing. To do well, we encourage you to keep up with lectures, carefully review all assignment guidelines and rubrics, take advantage of all learning opportunities, and visit with us early in the semester if you have any concerns.

For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Percentage of final grade</b>
Assignments (3 during the semester; 15% each)	45%
Current issues in animal welfare presentation (Due Oct 3)	10%
Final presentation (Due Dec 5)	15%
Final paper (Due Dec 12)	15%
Participation and attendance	10%
Reflections (8 out of 10)	5%

**Assignments:** Assignments will be made up of case studies for this course. We will have 3 case studies throughout the semester that will take approximately 2 class sessions to complete (See class schedule for dates) each one involving material (including in-person unit visit, reports, and

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information) and a critical reasoning and discussion component. Each case study will focus on a different animal species and draw on material discussed in a previous lecture. Students will be required to work on study reasons and be prepared to discuss their reasoning surrounding their decisions.

**Focal topics in animal welfare presentation:** Each student will pick a welfare topic that they are interested in during the first weeks of class. Students will prepare an infographic fact sheet and give a short presentation and lead a short classroom discussion, addressing the scientific findings (what do we know about the welfare consequences of the topic), assessment or regulation (are there laws or guidelines pertaining to it?), public perception, and general information they can find surrounding their chosen topic to their peers during class on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. See rubric for presentation requirements on Canvas.

**Final presentation and paper:** Based on what students have learned throughout the semester, they will prepare a presentation talking about animal assessment, focused on a topic of their choosing. Students will present current state of knowledge surrounding the scientific basis of assessing animal welfare in their focal area, and then discuss evaluation and auditing of welfare in practice. Students are also encouraged to discuss modifications or improvements when it comes to welfare assessment. This final presentation will be accompanied by a two-page written report summarizing their findings, which will include references. Students participating in the Animal Welfare Assessment Contest may use one of the topics for this assignment if they choose, and their presentation and paper can draw from material and experience at the contest.

**Reflections:** Following the end of lecture, reflection questions will be given. Students will respond with some comments in response to these questions in a discussion thread on Canvas within 24 hours of the class. We will pose 10 reflection questions throughout the semester and students are required to answer 8 of the 10 to receive full credit.

**Class participation:** This will be evaluated based on attendance during in-class meetings (held on Mondays) and participation in class discussions. 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 participate in required discussions.

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

Assignments should be submitted by the assigned deadline. With advance notice (at least 3 days) we are happy to accommodate extensions if you need more time to turn in your best work or experience an emergency. If assignments are submitted late with no prior notice, we will accept late assignments for up to a week after the posted deadline, with a penalty of 10 % for every day that the assignment is late. Requirements for class attendance are consistent with university policy: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

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### Class Schedule:

<b><i>Week</i></b>	<b><i>Day</i></b>	<b><i>Lecture</i></b>
1	August 29	Introductions
2	September 5	No class – Labor Day
3	September 12	Defining animal welfare
4	September 19	Science of animal welfare
5	September 26	Animal welfare assessment and auditing
6	October 3	Focal topics in animal welfare presentations
7	October 10	Case study: Livestock – part 1
8	October 17	Case study: Livestock – part 2
9	October 24	Case study: Companion animals – part 1
10	October 31	Case study: Companion animals – part 2
11	November 7	Case study: Laboratory – part 1
12	November 14	Case study: Laboratory – part 2
13	November 21	No class - Thanksgiving
14	November 28	Careers and current issues in animal welfare auditing and practices
15	December 5	Final presentations

## **OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

### **Technology requirements and privacy**

This course uses Canvas for providing course content. Please see the links below for important information regarding privacy and accessibility of these tools:

Canvas (Infrastructure) privacy policy: <https://www.instructure.com/policies/privacy>

Canvas (Infrastructure) accessibility statement:

<https://www.instructure.com/canvas/accessibility>

### **Academic Honesty**

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students 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.” The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Click here to read the Conduct Code. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructors in this class.

### **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 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](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

#### **Counseling and Wellness Center:**

[www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx](http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx), 392-1575

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)

Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

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### **University Police Department:**

[www.police.ufl.edu/](http://www.police.ufl.edu/), 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

### **UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center:**

[ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center](http://ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center), 352-733-0111  
1515 SW Archer Road (ER)

### **GatorWell Health Promotion Services:**

[gatorwell.ufsa.ufl.edu](http://gatorwell.ufsa.ufl.edu), 352-273-4450  
For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing

### *Academic Resources*

**E-learning technical support:** Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).

**Career Resource Center:** Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. 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, 352-392-2010 or 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>

**Writing Studio:** 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. 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](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf)

### ***Services for Students with Disabilities***

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

### ***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>.

***Process Statement on In-Class Recording***

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.