

ANS 6040 Concepts in Applied Ethology – Syllabus Spring 2025

Course Title

ANS 6040 Concepts in Applied Ethology (3 credits)

Course Instructor and Office Hours

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Office hours – by appointment.

Time and Location

- Class is on Tuesdays from 9:30 – 12:30 (periods 3 – 5)
- Bldg. 499 (Animal Sciences) Room 102 (or via Zoom for off-campus students)

Course Description and Objectives

This course introduces concepts and methods used to conduct research in the field of applied ethology. Course content includes an overview of mechanisms of animal behavior and approaches to measuring and modeling animal behavior. The focus is on developing skills necessary to conduct, analyze, and interpret research in applied ethology.

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

- Understand basic concepts in the field of applied ethology through discussion of both classic literature and current topics
- Explain and utilize principles of behavior science methodology, such as approaches to experimental design and methods of collecting behavioral data
- Critically analyze journal articles, provide clearly articulated peer review, and effectively communicate ideas in class discussions
- Apply concepts in applied ethology to interdisciplinary problems such as an animal welfare assessment
- Integrate principles covered in class in the development of a conceptual model for a behavior of interest

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 you and share announcements. Grades and assignment feedback will also be made available to you. Resources, including the course syllabus, assigned and recommended readings, supplementary

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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 and course content: Classes are in person, with off-campus students attending via Zoom if needed. Access Zoom meetings via the 'Zoom conferencing' tab in Canvas. See here for instructions on how to set-up Zoom through UF: <https://video.ufl.edu/conferencing/zoom/>

Many topics in the class will be explored through in-class discussion and activities related to assigned readings. We will both discuss together as a group and have subgroups focus and present on various topics within the context of class discussions. Certain topics will be presented with the aid of PowerPoint slides, images, and short video clips.

Each topic module links to a discussion thread, where you may post any comments or questions related to the content. I will be monitoring this thread and posting replies, and you are also welcome and encouraged to respond to your classmates' comments. Participation in class discussion (in person and discussion boards) will contribute to your 'Class Participation' grade, as described below.

Communication Expectations and Guidelines

Please reach out via Canvas inbox with any questions or to schedule a meeting. We also encourage you to post questions relating to the lecture material in the corresponding discussion thread to also benefit others who may have the same question.

Please review our course policy on a few topics important related to online security, including online security, written communication guidelines, communication with class instructor and TA, discussion board etiquette, and class etiquette:

<https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/422015/pages/communication-expectations-and-guidelines>

Textbook and required reading:

No formal textbook is required, but the following is recommended as a useful reference and will be referred to throughout the semester:

M. Bateson and P. Martin. (2021) *Measuring Behaviour: An Introductory Guide*. 4th Edition. Cambridge University Press.

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Key articles, including classic papers and review articles, will be used as a basis for classroom discussion on important topics. Assigned readings will be made available electronically. We will discuss the following readings on dates as follows:

- January 21** Duncan, I. J. H. 1995. An applied ethologist looks at the question “Why?”
Applied Animal Behaviour Science. 44:205-217.
Manning, A., and M. S. Dawkins. 1992. An Introduction to Animal Behaviour,
4th Ed., Cambridge University Press, UK (Questions about animal
behaviour, pp. 11-16)
- March 11** Lehner, P. N. 1996. Handbook of ethological methods, 2nd Ed., Cambridge
University Press. (A conceptual model of animal behavior, pp. 19-27, 37-
45)
Hughes, B. O., and I. J. H. Duncan. 1988. The notion of ethological ‘need’,
models of motivation and animal welfare. 1988. Animal Behavior.
36:1696-1707.
- March 25** Fraser, D. 2009. Assessing animal welfare: Different philosophies, different
scientific approaches. Zoo Biology. 28:507-518.
Ede, et al. 2019. Scientific assessment of affective states in dairy cattle. J. Dairy
Sci. 102:10677-10694.

In addition to the core readings, I will assign peer-reviewed journal articles throughout the semester. These will illustrate different examples of behavioral methods that we will explore in class activities and discussion. This course will also require you to read extensively on a behavior topic of your choosing and select journal articles.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

All activities 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	93-100%	B+	87-89.9%	C+	77-79.9%	D+	67-69.9%	E	< 60%
A-	90-92.9%	B	83-86.9%	C	73-76.9%	D	63-66.9%		
		B-	80-82.9%	C-	70-72.9%	D-	60-62.9%		

For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Activity	Percentage of final grade
Assignment 1: Asking questions about behavior	
<i>Oral presentation on Jan 23</i>	20%
<i>Written report due Jan 30</i>	
Assignment 2: Answering questions about behavior	
<i>Oral presentation on Feb 13 or 20</i>	20%

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Written report due Feb 27

Assignment 3: Animal welfare journal discussion <i>Journal discussion on April 3</i>	15%
Assignment 4: Modeling a behavioral system <i>Oral presentation on April 17 or 25</i> <i>Written summary due May 2</i>	35%
Class participation	10%

Assignments: There will be four assignments throughout the term. Three assignments will involve both a written paper and an oral presentation, and one assignment will be a student-led journal discussion. These assignments are described in detail in the following pages of this syllabus. Specific instructions for each assignment and the journal discussion will be discussed in detail in class well in advance of the due date, and numeric rubrics will be shared.

Participation: The grade for participation will be determined based on 1) completion of peer-review requirements (providing feedback for classmates' oral presentations) and 2) class attendance and involvement in activities and discussions (during class sessions and/or on Canvas), according to the rubric posted on Canvas. To achieve a good grade for classroom involvement you should plan to come to class familiar with any assigned reading and prepared to discuss your thoughts. Involvement from all students is a critical component to achieving a well-balanced and productive discussion. On presentation days, be attentive to the other speakers and contribute questions.

Absences, Make-up Work, and Late Assignments:

Please speak with me as soon as possible if you know you will be absent on a presentation day, as we will attempt to reschedule you. Classroom participation is expected and encouraged, and regular attendance is required to obtain a good participation grade.

It is expected that all written assignments will be received on or before the stated deadline. However, if you feel you would benefit from some additional days to complete your assignment, please speak with me at least 24 h before the deadline – I am happy to accommodate extensions for any reason.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

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CLASS SCHEDULE

Please note that this schedule is subject to change as we move through the term. Any significant changes will be discussed in class in advance of the lecture. Class dates are color-coded by the Module that they are grouped under: 'Asking questions about animal behavior' is **yellow**, 'Answering questions about animal behavior' is **green**, 'Modeling animal behavior' is **blue** and 'Animal welfare and ethics' is **orange**.

Week	Class date	Class topic	Deadlines
1	Jan 14	Introduction	
2	Jan 21	Asking questions about behavior - Discussion of assigned reading: Tinbergen's questions	
3	Jan 28	Assignment 1 – Student presentations and discussion	Oral presentation peer-evaluations
4	Feb 4	Answering questions about behavior - Measuring behavior, experimental design - Activity: Designing an ethogram	Assignment 1 written paper due
5	Feb 11	Answering questions about behavior cont. - Measuring social behavior, designing choice tests - Guest lecture: Dr. Katey Burke	
6	Feb 18	Assignment 2 – Student presentations and discussion	
7	Feb 25	Assignment 2 – Student presentations and discussion	Oral presentation peer-evaluations
8	Mar 4	Learning and motivation - Discussion: Assessing motivation	Assignment 2 written paper due
9	Mar 11	Conceptual models of behavior - Discussion of assigned reading	
	Mar 18	Spring break	
10	Mar 25	Behavior and animal welfare - Discussion of assigned reading: Assessing affective state	
11	Apr 1	Assignment 3 journal discussion	
12	Apr 8	Ethics in research - Guest speakers from USDA Animal Welfare Information Center to discuss animal use in research	*optional* submit literature review draft for feedback
13	Apr 15	Assignment 4 – Student presentations and discussion	
14	Apr 22	Assignment 4 – Student presentations and discussion	
	April 30		Assignment 4 written paper due

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Technology requirements and privacy

Computer requirements for this course are consistent with UF policy for student computing requirements, and likely similar to your other classes: <https://it.ufl.edu/policies/student-computing-requirements/>

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

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/process/student-conduct-honor-code>.

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

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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/>

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

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then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation
0001 Reid Hall, 352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu/>

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>.