

ANS 3008 Livestock Behavior & Welfare – Syllabus Fall 2019

Course Title

ANS 3008 Livestock Behavior & Welfare (3 credits)

Time and Location

MWF 11:45 – 12:35 (5th period)

Location: ANS 151

Course Instructor

Emily Miller-Cushon, Ph.D.

Office: Animal Sciences – Bldg 499, Room 104E

Email: emillerc@ufl.edu

Phone: (352) 448-3748

Teaching Assistants: Kaitlin Gingerich (kgingerich@ufl.edu), a MS student studying Animal Behavior and Welfare in the Department of Animal Sciences.

Office hours

Th 1:00 – 2:30 pm or by appointment. If you are not able to meet with me during office hours, you are welcome to stop by my office and talk with me if I am free, or arrange via email another time to meet.

Course Description and Objectives

This course explores factors influencing the expression of animal behavior, 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

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. Material presented in guest lectures may be included on tests.

Discussion activities: There will be in-class activities during the term (usually on Fridays) 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. Participation in these activities will contribute to your 'Class Participation' grade.

The following textbook is recommended:

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	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%		

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

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Activity	Percentage of final grade
Tests (3 during semester; 15% each)	45%
Assignments (3 during semester; 10% each)	30%
Independent research paper (Due December 12 by noon)	15%
Oral presentation	5%
Class attendance and 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, as specified in the schedule. 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.

Assignments: There will be three short assignments due throughout the semester (see Class Schedule for due dates; cut-off time is by the start of class). 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.

Independent research paper: This class assignment will focus on a behavioral topic of your choosing (to be discussed in class on October 12 and approved by the instructor or TAs). This assignment will involve independent reading and research. You will be responsible for 1) reading and summarizing 4 peer-reviewed scientific journal articles (see 'Tips for Finding Journal Articles' on CANVAS), 2) describe unanswered questions related to your behavior topic, and 3) describe how you would go about conducting research to address an unanswered question. The complete guidelines and rubric for this assignment can be found on CANVAS. Please note that correct spelling and grammar is important for college-level written assignments, and will factor into your grade. This assignment is intended to build on what you have learned in-class throughout the semester, and is in place of a conventional cumulative final exam. It is due during the final exam period (December 12 by noon).

Oral presentation: During the last lectures of the semester, all students will work in small groups to prepare short presentations, to share some of their research with the class. Based on the behavior topic selected for the literature review, you will be placed in a group of 5 students with a common theme surrounding your individual behavior topics (e.g. 'beef cattle', or 'zoo animals'). 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 an animal welfare topic of interest to your group.

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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.

Please note: there will be no opportunities for make-up work or extra credit assignments provided at the end of the semester, and grade point cut-offs are firm. To do well in this course, I encourage you to come to class, carefully review all assignment guidelines and rubrics, and visit with me early in the semester if you have any concerns. To avoid disappointment with final grades, I aim to provide informative feedback and transparent grading throughout the semester so that you know how you are progressing.

Absences, Make-up Work, and Late Assignments

Assignments should be submitted by the assigned deadline. I will accept late assignments for up to 4 days after the posted deadline, with a penalty of 20 % 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	W Aug 21	Introduction to animal behavior
	F Aug 22	In-class activity: Asking questions about animal behavior
2	M Aug 26	Measuring animal behavior
	W Aug 28	Behavior and genetics
	F Aug 30	Behavior and genetics
	M Sept 2	LABOR DAY
3	W Sept 4	Experience, learning, development
	F Sept 6	Experience, learning, development
4	M Sept 9	Motivation

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	W Sept 11	Motivation
	F Sept 13	<i>In-class activity:</i> Motivation Due: Assignment 1 – Developing an ethogram
	M Sept 16	Foraging and feeding behavior
5	W Sept 18	Foraging and feeding behavior
	F Sept 20	<i>In-class activity:</i> Foraging and feeding behavior
	M Sept 23	Social behavior
6	W Sept 25	Social behavior
	F Sept 27	TEST 1 – material up to September 20
	M Sept 30	Maternal behavior
7	W Oct 2	Maternal behavior
	F Oct 4	<i>In-class activity:</i> Parent-offspring conflict
	M Oct 7	Sexual and reproductive behavior
8	W Oct 9	Sexual and reproductive behavior
	F Oct 11	<i>In-class activity:</i> Behavior topics Due: Assignment 2 – Comparing wild and captive behavior
	M Oct 14	Abnormal behavior
9	W Oct 16	Abnormal behavior
	F Oct 20	<i>In-class activity:</i> Abnormal behavior
	M Oct 21	<i>In-class activity:</i> What is animal welfare?
10	W Oct 23	Animal welfare
	F Oct 25	TEST 2 – Material from September 23 until October 20
	M Oct 28	Animal welfare
11	W Oct 30	Animal welfare
	F Nov 1	UF HOMECOMING
	M Nov 4	Animal welfare assessment and auditing
12	W Nov 6	<i>Guest lecture:</i> Animal welfare auditing and industry perspectives
	F Nov 8	<i>In-class activity:</i> Animal welfare assessment Due: Assignment 3 - Animal welfare case study
	M Nov 11	VETERAN'S DAY
13	W Nov 13	<i>Guest lecture:</i> Equine Welfare – Dr. Carissa Wickens
	F Nov 15	Human-animal interaction
	M Nov 18	Human-animal interaction
14	W Nov 20	THANKSGIVING BREAK
	F Nov 22	THANKSGIVING BREAK
	M Nov 25	Careers and current research animal behavior and welfare
15	W Nov 27	TEST 3 – Material from October 21 until November 18
	F Nov 29	<i>Class presentations</i>
	M Dec 2	<i>Class presentations</i>
16	W Dec 4	<i>Class presentations</i>
17	T Dec 10	Research paper due by 10 pm on Tuesday, December 10.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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 Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TA 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 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/>

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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

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, 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>.