

Course Title

ANS 4932/6932 Contemporary Topics in Animal Welfare (1 credit)

Course Instructor

Emily Miller-Cushon, Ph.D.

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Office hours

I have an open-door policy. To make sure I am available, you are welcome to schedule an appointment via email.

Course Description and Objectives

This course addresses current issues in the broad field of animal welfare. Course content draws from topics affecting livestock, companion, and laboratory animal species, and encompasses aspects of routine management and handling, novel techniques for assessing and improving welfare, and societal viewpoints on animal use in agriculture and research. The focus is on discovering and analyzing issues of current relevance today, with students engaging in critical discussion and objectively considering controversial issues.

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

- Define and describe the meaning of the term ‘animal welfare’ and how welfare may be objectively measured in different contexts
- Review the literature, critically analyze journal articles, and form opinions soundly based on scientific evidence
- Describe the importance of considering animal welfare from various societal viewpoints
- Clearly articulate ideas in classroom discussion and objectively consider different viewpoints on controversial issues

Time and Location

W 12:45 – 1:35 (period 5)

Animal Sciences Building (Bldg 459), Room 102

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. 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.

Class format: Our weekly class sessions will consist of brief lectures and classroom discussion. Many topics will be explored through assigned reading (provided ahead of class) or independent research tasks in advance of in-class activities. Our discovery of current issues in animal welfare will also be driven by the interests and focuses of the class, with weekly topics presented and discussion activities led by different student groups.

Textbooks and required reading:

There is no required textbook. Assigned readings will be made available electronically as they are selected during the semester through class involvement. A preliminary list of assigned reading is included below:

- Aug 28** Fraser, D. 2009. Assessing animal welfare: Different philosophies, different scientific approaches. *Zoo Biology*. 28:507-518.
Weary, D.M., and J.M. Robbins. 2019. Understanding the multiple conceptions of animal welfare. *Animal Welfare*. 28:33-40.
- Sept 11** Weary, D.M., B.A. Ventura, and M.A.G. von Keyserlingk. 2016. Societal views and animal welfare science: Understanding why the modified cage may fail and other stories. *Animal*. 10:309-217.

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	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%		

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

Activity	Percentage of final grade	
	ANS 4932	ANS 6932
Focal animal welfare topic Written report + student-led presentation/discussion	30%	30%
Journal entries (3 due throughout semester)	50%	25%
Topics in animal welfare science Written report + presentation	-	30%
Class participation (Involvement in class discussions and activities, quality of questions)	20%	15%

Focal topic discussion and paper: A major assignment will involve choosing what you consider to be a critical animal welfare issue and investigating different perspectives on the problem within a small group. You will be assigned a class session to present a brief oral presentation and lead a group discussion, and you will then independently submit a written report summarizing your findings and viewpoint on this issue. Specific instructions will be discussed in detail in class well in advance of the date, and numeric rubrics will be shared.

Journal entries: You will also be responsible for 3 short written papers ('journal entries') that you may prepare based on the content of any class day.

Topics in animal welfare science: Students enrolled in ANS 6932 only will be responsible for presenting a focal topic describing the science of animal welfare. You will briefly present during a class session, and prepare a short literature review of your findings.

Participation: This class is heavily discussion-based, and involvement from all students is a critical component to achieving a well-balanced and interesting discussion. The grade for participation will be determined based on attendance and involvement in class discussions and activities. To achieve a good grade for participation you should plan to come to class familiar with any assigned reading and prepared to discuss your thoughts. On presentations days, be attentive to the other speakers and ask questions of the presenting student.

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 of lectures is required to obtain a good participation grade.

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It is expected that all written assignments will be received on or before the stated deadline. Please note that if you miss an assignment deadline without an approved reason, I will accept the assignment but will deduct 20 % from your grade for every day that the assignment is late.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

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.

Week	Date	Lecture material
1	August 21	Introduction to animal welfare and course overview
2	August 28	What does “animal welfare” mean? <i>Discussion of assigned reading</i>
3	September 4	Animal welfare across species: <i>what influences animal welfare, and how do we know?</i>
4	September 11	Animal welfare and society: <i>What are different viewpoints and concerns?</i>
5	September 18	Current issue #1: student-led discussion
6	September 25	Current issue #2: student-led discussion
7	October 2	Current issue #3: student-led discussion
8	October 9	Current issue #4: student-led discussion
9	October 16	Current issue #5: student-led discussion
10	October 23	Topics in laboratory animal welfare: Dr. Justin Varholick
11	October 30	Animal welfare around the world: <i>What are animal welfare standards and how are they upheld?</i>
12	November 6	Animal welfare auditing and industry perspectives
13	November 13	Topics in Equine Welfare: Dr. Carissa Wickens
14	November 20	Science of animal welfare: <i>perspectives on new techniques to measure and improve welfare</i>
	November 27	No class – Happy Thanksgiving!
15	December 4	Science of animal welfare: <i>perspectives on new techniques to measure and improve welfare</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/>

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>.