



IB 31: The Ecology and Evolution of Animal Behavior
Course Syllabus

Lecture: MWF 4:10 – 5:00 Moffitt 102

Discussion: Mon 2:10 – 3:00 pm Dwinelle 182 or Wed 1:10 – 2:00pm Etcheverry 3113

REQUIRED TEXT: *Davies, N.B., J.R. Krebs and S.A. West. 2012. An Introduction to Behavioural Ecology, 4th ed. Wiley-Blackwell. (older editions are acceptable - content may vary)*

Supplemental Readings – Online

RECOMMENDED TEXTS: *For those interested in additional reading*

Alcock, J. 2013. Animal Behavior: An Evolutionary Approach, 10th ed., Sinauer. (older editions are acceptable - content may vary)

Martin, P. and P. Bateson. 2007 Measuring Behaviour: An Introductory Guide. 3rd ed., Cambridge University Press. (older editions are acceptable - content may vary)

Lehner, P.N. 1998. Handbook of Ethological Methods. Cambridge Univ Press.

COURSE OBJECTIVE – This course will introduce students to principles of evolution biology as they relate to animal behavior and behavioral ecology with broad coverage of animal groups. Special attention will be paid to the emerging discipline of behavioral ecology.

EVALUATION

1) Weekly Online Quizzes	= 10% (1% each)	100 points (10 points each)
2) Four In Class Exercises	= 10% (2.5% each)	100 points (25 points each)
3) Three Midterm Exams	= 15% (5 % each)	150 points (50 points each)
4) Cumulative Final Exam	= 15%	150 points
5) Five Homework Assignments	= 25% (5% each)	250 points (50 points each)
6) Five Peer Reviews	= 10% (2% each)	100 points (20 points each)
7) Final Project Presentation	= 5%	50 points
8) Final Project Paper	= 10%	100 points

GRADING:

Total points possible = 1,000 points. Grades as follows:

GRADE	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
%	> 93%	90-93%	87-89.9%	83-86.9%	80-82.9%	77-79.9%	73-76.9%	70-72.9%	67-69.9%	63-66.9%	60-62.9%	<60%
POINTS	> 930	900-930	870-899	830-869	800-829	770-799	730-769	700-729	670-699	630-669	600-629	< 600

FINAL GRADES are based upon points accumulated during the quarter and are NOT negotiable.

IB 31 – Lecture and Discussion Section Schedule

Week	Date	Day	Topic	Reading	Quiz	Discussion	HW Due	
1	20-Jan	Fri	Introduction to Course			<i>No Section Meetings</i>		
	23-Jan	Mon	History and Theoretical Foundations I	D1, A1	1			
2	25-Jan	Wed	History and Theoretical Foundations II	D1, A1		<i>No Section Meetings</i>		
	27-Jan	Fri	Scientific Study of Behavior	D2				
	30-Jan	Mon	Darwinian Theory, “Ultimate” Causes	D2-3, A2	2	Study Subject, Questions, Hypotheses		
3	1-Feb	Wed	Ontogeny/ Development	A3, S1				
	3-Feb	Fri	Neural Mechanisms	A4				
	6-Feb	Mon	Behavioral Endocrinology	A5	3			
4	8-Feb	Wed	In Class Exercise 1			Data Collection I: Measures		
	10-Feb	Fri	EXAM 1					
	13-Feb	Mon	Introduction to Behavioral Ecology	D1				
5	15-Feb	Wed	Predator-Prey Interactions	D4		Data Collection II: Temporal Data		
	17-Feb	Fri	Competing for Resources	D5	4			
	20-Feb	Mon	Presidents Day Holiday – No Class					
6	22-Feb	Wed	Behavioral Adaptations for Survival	D6, A6		<i>No Section Meetings</i>	Literature Review	
	24-Feb	Fri	Foraging Behavior, Optimality Theory	D3, A7	5			
	27-Feb	Mon	Habitat Selection	D5, A8				
7	1-Mar	Wed	Residency, Migration, and Territoriality	D5		Writing an Introduction		
	3-Mar	Fri	Behavioral Data Analysis		6			
	6-Mar	Mon	Exam Review					
8	8-Mar	Wed	In Class Exercise 2			Data Analysis, Reporting Methods		
	10-Mar	Fri	EXAM 2					
	13-Mar	Mon	Introduction to Reproductive Behavior	D7, S2				
9	15-Mar	Wed	Peer Review 1			Preparing Results, Figures and Tables	Introduction	
	17-Mar	Fri	Reproductive Behavior, Sexual Selection	D7, A10				
	20-Mar	Mon	Evolution of Mating Systems I	D9-10, A11	7			
10	22-Mar	Wed	Peer Review 2			Preparing Research Presentations	Methods	
	24-Mar	Fri	Evolution of Mating Systems II	D8, A12				
27- 31 March			SPRING BREAK!			☺		
	3-Apr	Mon	Parental Behavior	D14, A9	8	Writing a Discussion Paper Titles and Abstracts		
11	5-Apr	Wed	Peer Review 3				Results	
	7-Apr	Fri	Communication	D11-13,A13				
	10-Apr	Mon	In Class Exercise 3					
12	12-Apr	Wed	Exam Review			Student Research Symposium 1		
	14-Apr	Fri	EXAM 3					
	17-Apr	Mon	Social Behavior	S3	9			
13	19-Apr	Wed	Peer Review 4			Student Research Symposium 2	Discussion	
	21-Apr	Fri	Applied Ethology					
	24-Apr	Mon	Final Exam Review					
14	26-Apr	Wed	Peer Review 5			Student Research Symposium 3	Final Paper	
	28-Apr	Fri	In Class Exercise 4		10			
	12-May	Fri	CUMULATIVE FINAL EXAM 8-11 am					

- *Schedule Subject to Change*
- *You will have the most success in mastering the material for this course if you do the assigned readings (D=Davies et al. required, A. Alcock recommended, S= supplemental) before lecture.*
- *Online quizzes are posted on bCourses Friday and due by class on Monday.*
- *For peer reviews, bring 1 printed copy of your draft paper to discussion section.*
- *Homework Assignments must be turned in through bCourses by Friday night, no later than midnight on the assigned week. Late assignments will be docked 10% per day.*

ONLINE RESOURCES: It is recommended that you become acquainted with the bCourses site early in the semester. Lectures, supplemental reading materials, exam review questions, and required weekly quizzes will be posted on bCourses. Homework assignments must be handed in on bCourses.

LECTURE REVIEW: Lecture pdfs will be available after each lecture via our bCourses site. Audio and video of lectures will be available online through bCourses.

IN CLASS EXERCISES: In class exercises must be completed and submitted before the end of class on the assigned day. In class exercises will not be accepted outside the class period except in the event of a serious illness or other legitimate excuse for absence (see below).

NO MAKEUP EXAMS WITHOUT A LEGITIMATE EXCUSE. In the event of a legitimate and documented absence from an in-class exam (e.g., Serious illness on the day of the exam), you must consult with the instructor prior to your absence. Absences without a valid reason and proper documentation (e.g., a note explaining why you were not able to attend signed by a doctor) will result in a grade of zero for the missed exam. In the event that you cannot attend an exam due to sudden, unforeseen circumstances (e.g., serious car accident on the way to class), contact the instructor within 24 hours of the missed exam to make arrangements. When exams are administered, as soon as the first student is finished with the exam, no one will be admitted into the testing room.

EXTRA CREDIT: Opportunities for extra credit will be available in the form of pop quizzes during some lectures and/or discussion section.

SPECIAL NEEDS: Students with special needs are encouraged to contact the instructor during office hours or by e-mail during the first two weeks of the semester to discuss accommodations for lectures, midterms or other elements of the course.

MISSED SECTION: If you expect to miss your discussion section for the week, you may e-mail the GSI and request to attend a different section, for that week only, and at the discretion of the GSI.

RE-GRADES: To contest a grade on an exam or assignment you must submit a written explanation of why you think the grade was incorrect. Please note that the entire exam or assignment will be subject to re-evaluation and your score may go up or down. Re-grade requests must be submitted to the GSIs within one week of the work being returned.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS: Assignments are due at the beginning of lecture on the date written in the schedule. Late assignments will be downgraded by 10% of the total possible grade if not handed in by the deadline. If the assignment is not handed in by midnight of the due date, it will be marked down an additional 10%, and 10% each day thereafter.

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON CHEATING OR PLAGIARISM (UCB GENERAL CATALOG):

“Achievement and proficiency in subject matter include your realization that neither is to be achieved by cheating. An instructor has the right to give you an F on a single assignment produced by cheating without determining whether you have a passing knowledge of the relevant factual material. That is an appropriate academic evaluation for a failure to understand or abide by the basic rules of academic study and inquiry. An instructor has the right to assign a final grade of F for the course if you plagiarized a paper for a portion of the course, even if you have successfully and, presumably, honestly passed the remaining portion of the course. It must be understood that any student who knowingly aids in plagiarism or other cheating, e.g. allowing another student to copy a paper or examination question, is as guilty as the cheating student.”

If you turn in someone else’s work as if it were your own, you are guilty of cheating. This includes assignments, exams, and extra credit. All suspected cases of cheating will be forwarded to the Office of Student Conduct. All homework assignments must be turned in through bCourses. Turnitin Originality Check software will be used to detect plagiarism.