

COURSE SYLLABUS*

BIO 4470.01w – Animal Behavior 83166

Fall Semester, 2017

- Instructor:** Dr. Diane Neudorf
Lee Drain Bldg. 115C
Tel: 294-1548, Email: Neudorf@shsu.edu
Office hours: By appointment.
- Location & time:** Mon., Wed., & Fri. 9:00 – 9:50 AM, LDB 115 (lecture)
Mon. 2:00 – 4:00 PM, LDB 115 (lab)
- Evaluation:** 3 Lecture Exams: 90 pts
Lab Assignments: 30 pts
Project Proposal: 10 pts
Project: 20 pts
Project Presentation: 10 pts
Final Exam: 30 pts
General Participation: 10 pts
- Grading Scheme:** A=180-200, B=160–179, C=140-159, D=120-139, F <120
- Important Dates:**
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| Sept. 20 | Exam I |
| Sept. 29 | Project Proposal Due (9 AM) |
| Oct. 20 | Zoo Assignment Due (9 AM) |
| Oct. 18 | Exam II |
| Oct. 30 | Abstract Assignment Due (9 AM) |
| Nov. 8 | Exam III |
| Nov. 20 | Optional First Draft of Project Due (9 AM) |
| Nov. 20 | Group Project Presentations |
| Nov. 29 | Final Written Project Due (9 AM) |
| Dec. 6 | Final Exam (9:30-11:30 AM) |
- Textbooks:** Animal Behavior (10th Edition) by John Alcock
- Attendance:** In accordance with University Policy, regular attendance is required. Attendance will be taken at the start of each lecture and scheduled lab. Students arriving after roll is complete will be marked late. Two late marks will be equivalent to one absence. **Students with more than 3 unexcused absences will lose 5 points from their participation grade.**
- Missed Exams:** Make-up exams will be offered only to students with written verification of illness, family emergency, religious event or required participation in an organized college event. In the latter two cases please notify me within the first 15 days of the semester.

Writing Enhanced: Please note that this is a writing enhanced class. Good writing skills (e.g. proper use of grammar, spelling, effective communication of ideas) will be emphasized for all assignments and tests. Please make use of the Writing Center located in the Sam Center for helping with written assignments.

Americans with Disabilities Act: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail disability@shsu.edu). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

Classroom rules: Cellular phones and pagers must be turned off during class time. Rude or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in, minimally, a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy. Visitors to the classroom will be permitted only with prior approval by me and if they do not present a disruption to the class.

A note on Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty includes cheating, collusion and plagiarism. It is a serious offense that at the very least will result in a failing grade on the assignment in question. Examples include: (1) Receiving or providing unauthorized assistance on an exam; (2) Using notes or other forms of unauthorized materials during an exam; (3) Submitting an assignment as one's own work that has been written in whole or in part by another; (4) Failing to properly indicate sources of borrowed words or ideas. For more information refer to "Code of Student Conduct and Discipline" in your SHSU student guidelines handbook.

Course Description:

In this class we will study the mechanisms and functional explanations of animal behavior. Experimental approaches to addressing questions of behavior will be emphasized. Examples will be drawn from a variety of animal groups.

Course Objectives:

After completing this course the student should be able to:

- 1) Understand and explain both proximate and ultimate causes for behavior.
- 2) Properly observe and quantify behavior.
- 3) Develop hypotheses to explain behavior.

4) Design and carry out experiments in animal behavior.

Course Format:

Typically we will have Lectures on Mondays and Wednesdays and Group Discussion on Fridays. Group discussions will involve readings from the literature and discussion questions based on assigned readings and lecture. It is to your benefit to attend lectures and discussions. You will be expected to come to class having done all assigned readings. **Your general participation grade will be largely determined by your participation in discussions.**

Lecture Schedule

Week:	Topic:	Readings:
1	Introduction, History of Animal Behavior	Ch. 1
2	Levels of Analysis	Ch. 10
3	Anti-predator Behavior, Foraging	Ch. 5
4	Hormones, Territoriality	Ch. 13
5	Navigation, Migration & Biological Clocks	Ch. 6
6	Habitat Selection, Communication	Ch. 6,4
7	Sexual Selection	Ch. 7
8	Mating Systems	Ch. 8
9	Mating Systems	Ch. 8
10	Parental Care	Ch. 9
11	Social Behavior	Ch. 3
12	Genetics, Learning	Ch. 11
13	Animal Behavior and Conservation	
14	Other topics if time permits	

Laboratory Schedule

Aug. 28	Observational Methods I and Zoo Assignment
Sept. 4	Labor Day – no lab
Sept. 11	Observational Methods II and Introduction to Research Projects
Sept. 18	Research Project Planning – report team members & topic
Sept. 25	Abstract assignment
Oct. 2	Data collection
Oct. 9	Data collection
Oct. 16	Informal Project Reports
Oct. 23	Data collection
Oct. 30	Data collection
Nov. 6	Statistical Analyses
Nov. 13	Writing and Presenting a Scientific Paper
Nov. 20	Research Presentations
Nov. 27	TBA

Please note that the course syllabus is tentative. Topics covered, exam dates, assignments and grading scheme are subject to change at my discretion.

GRADUATE STUDENT SUPPLEMENT

The course will follow the material presented in the class syllabus with the following exceptions/expectations:

- 1) All assignments and tests will be graded with higher expectations in terms of depth of answers and writing style.
- 2) Research projects will be conducted independently rather than in pairs or groups. Furthermore, graduate students should develop original research questions with the goal of publication in mind.
- 3) An additional 20 pt. assignment will involve a presentation to the class on a topic in Animal Behavior. Topics and details will be arranged individually with me.
- 4) Evaluation for the class will be out of 220 points rather than 200.