Instructor: Dr. Debbie Schlenoff  
Schlenof@uoregon.edu  
Office: 15A Klamath  
Office hours: Mondays 2:30-3:30pm and by appointment

GTF: Christine O'Connor  
oconnor3@uoregon.edu  
Office Hour: Thursdays 9:00-10:00am in Onyx 360.

Biology Undergraduate Assistant: Miriam Champer  
mchamper@uoregon.edu

Website: All course documents will be posted on the Blackboard Course Website.

Course Description: Animal behavior is a multidisciplinary science devoted to understanding the variety of behaviors and traits that contribute to biological diversity of our planet. We will study the foundational concepts and principles of animal behavior and use case studies and examples to illustrate and develop an appreciation for the many interesting things that animals do to survive and reproduce. Our primary focus will be the adaptive significance of behavior. We will explore how behavior contributes to an individual's survival and the successful transmission of an individual's genes across generations. The prerequisite for this course is either Bi213 or Bi253.

Course Objectives
- Learn fundamental principles and concepts in animal behavior.
- Apply these principles to help understand the variety of behaviors and traits observed in the animal kingdom.
- Increase scientific literacy and communication skills.
- Independently research, explore, and evaluate questions in animal behavior.
- Collaboratively explore ways to acquire data from animal observation.
- Gain an appreciation for the diversity of the natural world!

Readings, mostly journal articles from the scientific literature, are required reading for this course. These readings will be available on Blackboard. The readings will be announced in class and on Blackboard. We will be actively engaged in discussing the readings during class so please read them before the due date. Although there is no required textbook for the course, there are some excellent textbooks in Animal Behavior that might be helpful to your studies. Please inquire if you want recommendations for a textbook.

Course Format

Lectures. 12:00-1:20 MW in 112 LIL  
You will be responsible for all material presented in lecture.  
The course schedule is tentative and subject to change; adjustments will be announced in class.  
Lecture meetings will be a mix of lecture and discussion. Discussions will include questions on assigned readings, so I have a strong expectation that you will have read the material before coming to class and arrive ready to participate. There are group and writing activities that occur during lecture. It is our expectation that you participate in these activities. Your active involvement promotes understanding of the material and preparation for exam questions. There is a strong positive correlation between attendance in lecture and class grades.
Lecture outlines containing the text of the PowerPoint slides are available on Blackboard. Please keep in mind that these are merely outlines for your convenience in taking and organizing notes. They are not meant to serve as a complete set of lecture notes when studying for the exams. Questions are welcome and encouraged during and after lecture, during office hours, and via e-mail.

**Discussion Sections** Tuesdays, 111 HUE
Participation in discussion sections is a required part of this class and will count toward your final grade. Occasionally there will be short assignments associated with discussion section activities. These will be announced in class and on Blackboard. Sections will provide an opportunity to question and discuss some of the topics presented in the readings and lecture. Some weeks may be used to discuss projects or engage in participatory group activities.

**Grading Evaluation:**

- 25% Midterm exam
- 25% Final exam
- 11% Ethogram Project
- 23% Term paper project (18 pts. for paper and 5 pts. for electronic posting of abstract + responses)
- 8% Section participation and assignments
- 8% Reading quizzes and lecture participation

Total = 100%

**Exams:** The midterm exam is worth 25% of the total class grade and the final exam is worth 25%. Exams will include material from the lectures, readings, in-class activities, discussion sections, and the video clips shown in class.

**Exams** will be mixed format (short answer, multiple choice, short essay). Details will be announced in class. **Make-up Exam Policy:** There will be NO make-up exams except in the case of a documented severe medical condition or other extreme documentable emergency. It is your responsibility to contact the instructor as soon as possible.

**Ethogram Project**
See Blackboard for detailed information. Due as hard copy 1/29.
You will work in groups of two to develop an ethogram for an animal easily observed outside of class.
1. Initial Observations. Create an observation sheet/ethogram.
2. Make observations to complete an ethogram. You and your partner will make observations at the same time but each of you will independently record the ethogram.
3. Write up summary of observations and comparison of results.
4. Propose a question and hypothesis and experiment based on your preliminary results.

**Term Project**
Each of you will independently research a topic in animal behavior that results in an individually written seven page term paper which will be handed in as a hard copy on 2/26. In the paper, you will synthesize information from the scientific literature to address a question or problem or idea. The paper will include an analysis of one to three data figures from your readings and a Project Proposal component: What research would you propose to gather more information that would elucidate your chosen topic? You will also post an abstract of your paper electronically on Blackboard. You will then comment on abstracts posted by classmates and respond to comments on your own abstract. More details about the project requirements will be provided in class and on Blackboard.
Discussion Activities
Your score for each week will be determined by attendance, participation, and completion of any assigned exercises. You will receive further instructions about assignments due in discussion. There are a total of nine sections this term.

Lecture Participation and Reading Quiz Questions: We will either have a short quiz on the readings or collect short comments after class activities or reading reflections nine times during the term and eight of these will count toward your final grade. You can miss one without penalty. Make-ups will not be administered.

Percent to letter grade conversion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>97-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72%</td>
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<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62%</td>
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Professional conduct

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. You are expected to do your own work on assignments, projects, and exams. When writing up your assignments and papers, you are expected to paraphrase (use your own words). When writing up your project papers, give credit to the sources of your information. You are encouraged to discuss ideas with each other and to study together, but don’t copy someone else’s work, or allow them to copy yours.

Academic dishonesty is a serious offense. Please refer to the University of Oregon Student Conduct Code by which all students are expected to abide.

Classroom Etiquette:
1. Please arrive on time.
2. Please don't leave early. This is very disruptive to everyone. In turn, I will not lecture beyond 1:20. If you have an unusual circumstance and must leave early, then please sit near the exit so you can leave unobtrusively.
3. Please refrain from engaging in activities that could be distracting to your fellow students.
   • We ask that you not converse with your neighbors when someone else is talking (instructor or classmate) as this interferes with the ability of other students to learn.
   • Please turn your cell phones off during lecture.
   • Please use computers during lecture only to take notes. Other laptop activities have been reported to be distracting to your fellow students.
   • Please do not pack up your things early as this makes it difficult for students around you to hear the end of the lecture.

If you are having a problem that interferes with your ability to do the work in this class, please tell us about it as soon as you can. We may be able to refer you to someone for help or to make special arrangements if the need is real and if you have done your best to deal with the situation in a timely manner.

The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your participation. You may also wish to contact Disability Services in 164 Oregon Hall at 346-1155 or disabsrv@uoregon.edu

The following tentative schedule is a work in progress and is subject to change. Changes will be announced in class and on Blackboard.
All reading assignments will be posted on Blackboard.
**See documents on Blackboard for further information on projects and assignments.**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK</th>
<th>LECTURE TOPICS (tentative)</th>
<th>DISCUSSION SECTION (Tuesdays)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1/7 Introduction and the Study of Animal Behavior 1/9 Proximate and Ultimate Levels of Analysis. Natural Selection. <em>Reading: Holekamp and Sherman. (See Blackboard for all upcoming class reading assignments.</em>)</td>
<td>1/8 No discussion first week. Read Syllabus and Ethogram Project documents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1/14 Behavioral Genetics and Adaptation 1/16 Optimality, and ESS</td>
<td>1/15 Discussion intro. Project description. On ethograms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1/28 Predator Prey Interactions 1/30 Anti-predator Adaptations</td>
<td>1/29 Dragonfly nymph predator demonstration. <strong>Ethogram Project due.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2/4 Sexual Selection 2/6 Honest Signaling</td>
<td>2/5 <strong>Reference presentation due.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>2/18 Parental Care 2/20 Social Behavior</td>
<td>2/19 <strong>Term paper draft due in section. Peer review Term paper.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>2/25 The evolution of Altruism 2/27 Social Insects</td>
<td>2/26 Sibling Rivalry Activity. <strong>Term paper DUE</strong></td>
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**FINAL EXAM** 3/19, Tuesday at 10:15