

SYLLABUS Animal Behavior

Instructor: Alan Shanks (ashanks@uoregon.edu or 888-2581 ex 277)

TA: Leif Rasmussen

My office is in the Terwilliger Building and my door is always open.

Class Schedule: Thursday 9:00 AM to 5 PM

This class is a general survey of the entire field of animal behavior. We will discuss everything from how organisms sense the world, to what they do with this information and how evolution has channeled behaviors. The class meets one day a week. During each class meeting there will be either a long lecture or a discussion. The lab portion of the class will be almost entirely student directed projects, which will provide lots of hands on experience working with animals and a great deal of opportunity for field work.

Text Book –Optional

John Alcock – Animal Behavior

I am not assigning a textbook for the class. I wrote the lectures using the above book, but I am mad at the publisher. They are coming out with a new edition of the book just about annually and are now on the 9th edition. There is not much difference in the latest version from the first edition. With each new edition the price has gone up – currently the price is \$106. I hand out extensive notes in the class and the last time I taught the class no one bought the book, they said the notes were enough. There are copies of the book in class on reserve and I have listed the readings for each week. Some of the reserve books are from the U of O library and the rest are copies I have bought. If you would like a copy of the book the latest edition is available from Amazon (used copies are around \$58). If you go to Abe Books (online clearing house for used books) you can get older versions of the text for a \$1 with about \$3.50 for shipping. The readings are not required, they supplement the lecture and lecture notes. Reading will, however, definitely help you learn the topic.

Approximate Class Schedule

Week 1.

- 5 April. 9:00 AM: Lecture: Brief History of Animal Behavior, Review of Evolution, The Scientific Method, First concepts in Animal Behavior. Readings: Chapters 1 and 2. Lab in afternoon - trip to the beach (weather permitting).

Week 2.

- 12 April We will start with a 1 hr lecture and then go to South Cove for several hours. Lecture will finish in the afternoon. Lab will be further discussion and work on lab projects. Lec. 2: Neurobiology of Behavior. Readings: Chapters 5 and 6.

Week 3.

- 19 April 9:00 AM: Lec. 3: Genetics and development of Behavior, Readings: Chapters 3 and 4. Lab: Begin class projects.

Week 4.

- 26 April 9:00 AM Lec. 4: Evolution of Behavior. Readings: Chapters 7, 8 and 9. Lab.: Class projects. Review for midterm.

Week 5

- 3 May 9:00 AM **Mid-term.** Lab. Class projects.

Week 6.

- 10 May 9:00 AM: Lec.: Where to live – dispersal, migration, and territoriality; Avoiding predators, Chaps 10, 11, and 12. Lab.: Class projects.

Week 7.

- 17 May 9:00 AM. Male/Female reproductive tactics, Ecology of Mating systems, Chaps. 13 and 14. Lab.: Class projects.

Week 8

- 24 May 9:00 AM Lec.: Caring for young, Chap 15. Lab.: Class projects.

Week 9.

- **No Class this week!** Sveta is going to teach Tuesday and Thursday this week so she can go on a cruise and we will meet Tuesday and Thursday next week.

Week 10.

- 5 June 9 AM Lec.: Ecology of Social behavior and Eusocial behavior, Chap 16. Lab.: Finish class projects.

- 7 June 9:00 AM Lec.: Human Sociobiology, Chap 17. Lab.: Present class projects to the class. Review for final. **Note due to the time shift with Sveta we need to decide if we should do class presentations on this date or next week.**

Week 11

- 14 June **Cumulative Final** Paper on class project due by 4 PM on what day should we choose?

Determination of Grade

Your grade will be determined by the mid-term, final (**NOTE THAT THE FINAL IS CUMULATIVE**), two oral presentations, two short papers on your oral presentations, and write up of your class project. The portion of your grade due to each of these assignments is as follows:

Mid-term	1/4
Final exam	1/4
Class Research Project Report	1/4
Presentation of class project	1/4

The individual research projects will be written up as a scientific manuscript and will be submitted on the afternoon of ? - we need to decide on a due date. I will describe in detail what I expect and offer suggestions on writing a scientific paper.

On the last day of class you will present the results of your research to the class in a short presentation (15 min plus questions). I will describe in detail how to give a good presentation.