

IB 329 Animal Behavior

(aka. ANSC 366, ANTH 342)

Fall 2013, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Time and Place: MWF 3:00-3:50 pm, 150 Animal Science Laboratory

Web resources: <https://moodle.life.illinois.edu/course/view.php?id=338>

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Required Text: *Animal Behavior: An Evolutionary Approach*, 10th or 9th Edition - John Alcock

Overview: The main goal of this course is to examine the proximate and ultimate causes of animal behavior, i.e., how and why animals do what they do. We will investigate the genetic/developmental and sensory/motor mechanisms of behavior, the possible evolutionary constraints on behavior, and the effects of behavior on fitness.

Structure: 50 min lecture three times a week. We will try to make the learning process as active as possible with a class of over 150 students. Lecture outlines will be posted online, usually the day of lecture. Although full discussions may be difficult, student participation will be encouraged throughout the lecture.

Grading: There will be three in-class tests (100 pts each). All tests are multiple-choice and short essay. If you need to take a conflict exam, let me know as soon as possible. If you miss an exam due to an emergency, you will need a letter from the Dean of Students.

If you need special assistance because of a learning disability please see me at the beginning of the semester to discuss what arrangements should be made. If you have serious questions or concerns about your performance in this class due to extenuating circumstances, please talk to me (before the last week of the semester!). I will always try to accommodate a student with a demonstrated desire and willingness to learn, but there is a fine balance between being reasonable, being fair to all students, and being a push over.

Grading Scale:	<u>Letter grade</u>	<u>% points</u>	<u>total points</u> (out of 300 possible)
	A	90%	270
	B	80%	240
	C	70%	210
	D	60%	180

Extra Credit: You can receive extra credit by attending a campus seminar on the topic of animal behavior. For specific directions and a list of potential seminars, see the postings on Moodle.

Honesty policy: This course follows Rule 33 of the *Code of Policies and Regulations Applying to All Students*, which states: "It is the responsibility of the student to refrain from infractions of academic integrity, from conduct that may lead to suspicion of such infractions, and from conduct that aids others in such infractions..." Any academic dishonesty will result in zero points for both parties for the first infraction. Second infractions will result in automatic failure of the course and a recommendation to the University for dismissal.

Lecture Schedule
(tentative)

Date	Day	Topic	Reading in Alcock
Aug 26	M	Introduction to the course	
Aug 28	W	Foundations of Animal Behavior	Chapter 1
Aug 30	F	Methodology for the Study of Behavior	
Sept 2	M	Labor Day – No Class	
Sept 4	W	Evolution and Behavior	Chapter 2
Sept 6	F	Proximate vs Ultimate Explanations	Chapter 2
Sept 9	M	Genetics of Behavior 1	Chapter 3
Sept 11	W	Genetics of Behavior 2	Chapter 3
Sept 13	F	Development and Behavior	Chapter 3
Sept 16	M	Hormones & Behavior	Chapter 5
Sept 18	W	Neurobiology I: Sensory Systems	Chapter 4
Sept 20	F	Neurobiology II: Neural Basis of Behavior	Chapter 4
Sept 23	M	Recognition Systems 1	
Sept 25	W	Recognition Systems 2	
Sept 27	F	Review 1	
Sept 30	M	Exam 1	
Oct 2	W	Anti-predatory Behavior	Chapter 6
Oct 4	F	Predatory Behavior / Foraging	Chapter 7
Oct 7	M	Foraging 2	Chapter 8
Oct 9	W	Habitat Selection / Territoriality	Chapter 8
Oct 11	F	Communication I	Chapter 9
Oct 14	M	Communication II	Chapter 9
Oct 16	W	The Honey Bee Dance Language	Chapter 7
Oct 18	F	Evolution of Sex	Chapter 11
Oct 21	M	Sexual Selection & Male Competition	Chapter 10
Oct 23	W	Sexual Selection & Mate Choice	Chapter 10
Oct 25	F	Mating Systems	Chapter 11
Oct 28	M	Review 2	
Oct 30	W	Exam 2	
Nov 1	F	Parental Care	Chapter 12
Nov 4	M	Helpers at the Nest	Chapter 7, 13
Nov 6	W	Living in Groups	Chapter 7, 13
Nov 8	F	Cooperation / Altruism	Chapter 13
Nov 11	M	No Class	
Nov 13	W	Eusociality I	Chapter 13
Nov 15	F	Division of Labor	
Nov 18	M	Conservation and Behavior I	
Nov 20	W	Conservation and Behavior II	
Nov 22	F	No Class	
Nov 25-29		No Class – Thanksgiving Break	
Dec 2	M	Human Sociobiology	Chapter 14
Dec 4	W	Human Personality	Chapter 14
Dec 6	F	Human Behavior	Chapter 14
Dec 9	M	Review 3	
Dec 11	W	Exam 3	