

ANIMAL BEHAVIOR

Zoology 140

COURSE SYLLABUS - Spring 2012

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Course Focus. This course will introduce students to the basic concepts of animal behavior. By the end of the semester, students will have a general understanding of invertebrate and vertebrate behavior, including learning, foraging strategies, sexual selection, mating systems, social behavior and the evolutionary mechanisms that guide it.

This is a three-unit non-major's biology course which satisfies the SBCC General Education requirement in Natural Sciences. This course is transferable to the UC & CSU as a general education life science course. Biology majors are welcome to take this course, however they will not receive credit toward their major for this course.

Texts. *Animal Behavior: an Online Textbook*, by Michael D. Breed.
www.animalbehavioronline.com

All readings are from the free online textbook listed above. However, please don't limit yourself to this website. Another good website to reference is en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Animal_Behavior. Or you can always Google a specific topic (e.g. animal migration). Just be sure the sites you reference are from reputable, knowledgeable sources. You can usually ensure this by limiting your search to .edu sites or those hosted by scientific organizations (e.g. Animal Behavior Society, National Zoo).

Course Requirements.

Attendance. You are expected to attend 2 - 1 hour 20 minute lectures each week. There is a strong positive correlation between a student's final grade and their attendance in lecture. Students that regularly attend lectures tend to get the highest grades. All exams are based on information discussed in lecture. If you are not in lecture, you will not get the information and risk doing poorly on exams. So, if you want to do well in this class, I strongly suggest you attend regularly.

Your attendance in lecture will be monitored via a sign in sheet. You will be responsible for signing yourself in each lecture period. If you forget, you will be considered absent. You may NOT retroactively sign yourself in for missed classes or those you may have forgotten to sign in for. You absolutely may NOT sign in anyone else – everyone signs in their own name. Doing so will be considered an act of academic dishonesty and will be reported to the academic dean of SBCC.

Lecture Exams will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer and essay type questions. Exam material will be based solely on information presented in lecture. There will be three (3) exams, worth 100 points each.

If, for some legitimate reason, you should miss a scheduled exam a make-up exam may be arranged. However, make-up exams will be given **ONLY** if one of the following criteria is met:

- you are dead or near death on the day of the exam and you **bring a signed note from your doctor** stating that your medical condition prohibited you from taking the exam
- you arrange ahead of time (i.e. **before** the exam is scheduled to be given) to take the exam at another time, preferably at a time before the scheduled exam date.
- unforeseen circumstances (car accident, family emergency, etc.) on the day of the exam keep you from making it to the exam. If this happens, you **MUST** call or email me **on or before the day of the exam**, informing me that you will not be able to make it and why.

If any of these criteria are not met, you will NOT be given a make-up exam. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** In addition, every effort must be made to **make up the exam within a week** after it is originally given. Note: **You are responsible** for talking to me and arranging a make-up exam.

Quizzes. There will be 5, 10 point quizzes given periodically throughout the semester. These quizzes will be given at the end of the day's lecture and will cover information addressed during that lecture. These quizzes can be of any format (multiple choice, short answer, etc.) and are open note. There are **NO make-up quizzes** given, no exceptions.

Video Worksheets. We will watch several videos throughout the semester. All of them are meant to illustrate and reinforce concepts and ideas discussed in class. Each of the videos will include a worksheet for you to complete with information learned in the video. Each worksheet is worth 20 points and is due at the end of the class period in which the video is shown. Make-ups for missed videos **may** be arranged at the discretion of the instructor and **ONLY** if certain conditions are met.

Homework Assignments You will be required to complete two (2) homework assignments. One of them will entail completing a computer simulation exercise and answering questions about the simulations. The other will entail making observations and analyses of animal behaviors (made either at the zoo, your backyard, or any other place of interest) and writing your findings in to a short paper.

These assignments are meant to help you understand and apply the information you learn in class in "real life" settings. I want you to observe and think about animal behavior in a way that you maybe haven't done before. The details of the animal observation assignment will be discussed later in the semester.

These assignments are worth 35 and 75 points and are due on **Feb. 8** and **May 9**, respectively.

Research Project. You will be required to research some aspect of animal behavior and present that information in a format of your choosing. This project is designed to teach you how to research information, compile and organize that information, and assemble it into a clear, intelligent, articulate presentation. Hopefully, you will also learn more about your specific topic of choice.

Possible formats for this project include, but are not limited to: a traditional research paper; a short video production; or a powerpoint presentation. At the end of the semester, you will be given the opportunity to present your project to the class for extra credit.

This project is worth 100 points and is **due no later than Wed. Mar. 21, 2012**. Early projects will be gladly accepted, however **LATE PROJECTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES!**

Final Course Grade will be based on the following distribution of points:

3 exams @ 100 points each	300 points
5 quizzes @ 10 points each	50 points
7 video worksheets @ 20 points each	140 points
Evolution assignment	35 points
Research project	100 points
Animal observation assignment	<u>75 points</u>
Total	700 points

The following scale will be used for determining the final course grade:

Depending on the overall performance of this class, these percentages may be lowered, but they will not be raised. Therefore, anyone who earns 90% or above is guaranteed an A grade. Anyone who earns 80% or better is guaranteed at least a B, and so on.

GRADE	TOTAL PERCENTAGE	TOTAL POINTS ACCRUED
A	100-90%	700-630
B	89-80%	629-560
C	79-70%	559-490
D	69-55%	489-385
F	54-0%	384-0

More on Grades. As you progress through the course and you complete each of the exams & assignments you will be accruing points towards a final letter grade for the course.

Specific letter grades will not be given after each lecture exam or assignment, but you will receive a percentile score that will give you a general idea of where you stand in the course.

Generally, letter grades given for each exam can be misleading for some students. Often students will attempt to figure their grade based simply on the letter grade they received for each exam or assignment —“I got an “A” on one test and a “C” on another, so I must have a “B” overall”. Since your course grade is based on your cumulative score for all your work this can be an inaccurate method of determining your true grade. Although you may have a “B”, your cumulative percentile may be closer to an “A” or to a “C”. Thus, your percentile score on each exam is a more accurate depiction of how well you are doing in the course.

It is important that you realize that your grade is the result of your performance on the exams and assignments. **You must take responsibility for your own grade!** As your instructor, my job is to provide you with the information you need to know and understand. I will try my hardest to do this through clear and interesting presentations of the material. Your job as a student is to learn it, use it, and understand it. If you are having difficulty doing this, **it is your responsibility to seek help.** Ask questions, come to my office hours, talk to other students - whatever is necessary to help you learn the information.

Policy on Cheating. Santa Barbara City College has a strict policy on academic honesty and I maintain a **zero tolerance for any act of academic dishonesty**. **Academic dishonesty**, as defined by myself and SBCC, **includes**, but is not limited to: **cheating on an exam (e.g. looking at or copying from someone else's exam, talking to someone during an exam, using cell phones or texting, bringing prepared "cheat sheets", using translators or dictionaries) copying someone else's work or answers on worksheets or assignments, plagiarism, or submitting a paper written wholly or in part by someone else**. All instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the academic dean for institutional action. In addition, the dishonest student will receive a zero score for the exam/paper on which the cheating occurred. I strongly advise that you do not engage in any dishonest activity. It would be a shame to ruin your future solely in an attempt to achieve a few extra points.

Students with Disabilities. SBCC students with disabilities who are requesting accommodations for classes, college activities or tests should use the following SBCC procedure. (NOTE: This also includes students who are requesting to bring service animals into classes. The animals will be registered in DSPS. The procedure also includes requests to bring into classes personal service attendants who are not SBCC employees.)

[1] Contact Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS).

[2] Submit documentation of your disability to the DSPS office.

[3] Communicate with a DSPS counselor regarding options for services and accommodations.

[4] Reach written accommodation agreement with the DSPS counselor and your instructor.

SBCC requests you complete this process at least ten working days before your accommodation is needed, in order to allow DSPS staff time to provide your accommodation.

Contact: DSPS office (805) 965-0581 x 2364, SS Building, room 160, dspshelp@sbcc.edu

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs). Upon successful completion of this course, students will have achieved the following learning outcomes:

1. Total fitness – Be able to explain how survivorship and reproductive success are related to total fitness.
2. Social – Be able to explain how social behaviors evolve, particularly those of parental investment, mating systems and parental care.
3. Application – Be able to use concepts of natural and sexual selection to interpret the adaptive value of a variety of behaviors.

Schedule of Lecture Topics

Week	Date	Topic
1	Jan. 23 Jan. 25	Introduction Ultimate & proximate questions, science
2	Jan. 30 Feb. 1	Strategies, tactics, game theory, & evolution Natural Selection & adaptation
3	Feb. 6 Feb. 8	Video 1: 4 Billion Year War Evolution assignment due , class simulation & discussion
4	Feb. 13 Feb. 15	Proximate factors: neurons, hormones & genes Development of behavior: Innate & learned behaviors
5	Feb. 20 Feb. 22	No School – Presidents Day holiday Video 2: Brain Power
6	Feb. 27 Feb. 29	Exam 1 Communication: general
7	Mar. 5 Mar. 7	Communication: channels Video 3: Talking to Strangers
8	Mar. 12 Mar. 14	Survival behavior: Self-defense Survival behavior: Foraging
9	Mar. 19 Mar. 21	Video 4: Hunting & Escaping Survival behavior: Habitat selection, migration & navigation; Research project due
	Mar. 26 - 30	No school – spring break
10	Apr. 2 Apr. 4	Video 5: Finding the Way Exam 2
11	Apr. 9 Apr. 11	Reproductive behavior: sexual selection, males Reproductive behavior: sexual selection, females
12	Apr. 16 Apr. 18	Reproductive behavior: Mating systems Video 6: Continuing the Line
13	Apr. 23 Apr. 25	Reproductive behavior: Parental care Social behavior: selfishness, cooperation, altruism & kin selection
14	Apr. 30 May 2	Social behavior: altruism & reciprocity Eusocial behavior
15	May 7 May 9	Video 7: Winning Teams Extra credit research project presentations; Animal observation assignment due
16	May 16	Final Exam 2:00 – 4:00pm