

WILD 3300

Title: *Wildlife Behavior*

Credits: 3
Semester taught: Spring 2016
Instructor: Dr. Michael R. Conover
Office: 159 Biology and Natural Resources (BNR)
Telephone; email: 797-2436; mike.conover@usu.edu

TA: Rob Lewis
Office: 221 JQL
Telephone; Email: 240-256-5290 rob.lewis@aggiemail.usu.edu

Class Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 to 10:15

Textbooks: Alcock, John. 2013. *Animal Behavior*. TENTH EDITION. Sinauer Associates. **DO NOT GET AN EARLIER EDITION!!!**

Office Hours: I am usually in my office from 1:00 to 2:00 on Monday and Wednesday. Please stop by and say hello. The worse time to catch me is before or after class. Email me if you want to set up an appointment.

Summary: This course will concentrate on evolutionary aspects of behavior, predator-prey dynamics, behavioral ecology and sociobiology.

Grading: Grades will be based on quizzes, three tests, and writing assignments.

Students will be evaluated by the following criteria:

- 70% — There will be three exams. Test 1 and 2 each account for 20% of grade; test 3 accounts for 30%.
- 30% — Quizzes and writing assignments.

Class Rules:

- 1) Class attendance is mandatory.
- 2) Your work must be totally your own. Cheating will result in failing this class.
- 3) Quizzes on the reading assignments will occur at the beginning of class on the day the reading assignments are due. Quizzes cannot be made up regardless of the reason you are not in class.

- 4) Students will be called upon to answer questions from a chapter anytime after the chapter reading assignment is due.
- 5) Other than participation in class, there is no way to earn bonus points.

Course Outline

Date	TOPIC	READING ASSIGNMENTS
Jan 12	Chapter 1 – Introduction to Animal Behavior	Ch 1(Finish before 1/14)
Jan 14-19	Chapter 2 – Behavioral Ecology and Evolution Of Altruism	Ch 2 (Finish before 1/14)
Jan 21-26	Chapter 3 – Evolution of Social Behavior	Ch 3 (Finish before 1/21)
Jan 28-Feb 2	Chapter 4 - Communication	Ch 4 (Finish before 1/28)
Feb 4	Test 1	
Feb 9-Mar 1	Chapter 5 – Avoiding Predators and Finding Food	Pages 101-121 (Read by 2/9) Pages 122-137 (Read by 2/23)
Feb 16	No class today - Attend Monday Classes instead.	
Mar 3-17	Chapter 6 - Evolution of Habitat Selection, Territoriality, and Migration	Ch 6 (Finish by 3/3).
Mar 7-11	No classes – Spring Break	
Mar 22	Test 2	
Mar 24-29	Chapter 7 – Evolution of Reproductive Behavior	Ch 7 (Finish before 3/24)
Mar 31-Apr 5	Chapter 8 – Evolution of Mating Systems	Ch 8 (Finish before 3/31)
Apr 7-12	Chapter 9 – Evolution of Parental Care	Ch 9 (Finish before 4/7)
	Chapter 10 – Skip	
Apr 14-19	Chapter 11 – Development of Behavior	Ch 11 (Finish before 4/14)

Chapter 12 – Skip

April 21-26 Chapter 13 – How Neurons and Hormones
Organize Behavior

Ch 13 (Finish before 4/21)

Chapter 14 – Skip

Apr 28 Test 3