



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

COMMERCE

College of Science and Engineering

BSC 540 Animal Behavior

I. General Information

Course syllabus: Fall 2022

Credits: 3 sch

Instructor of record: Johanna Delgado Acevedo, Ph.D.

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Office hours: online

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Book: *Principles of Animal Behavior*, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed.(2020), Dugatkin. ISBN-13: 978-0226448381

II. Course Description

Animal Behavior Hours: 3 An investigation of the principles of animal behavior with an emphasis on evolution and the proximate and ultimate causes of behavior. Aspects of methods of observations, physiology and development of behavior, instinct and learning, and modern cognitive ethology will be addressed.

III. Student Learning Outcomes

Students will be familiar with what the study of animal behavior entails, emphasizing the field of ethology

Students will be familiar with innate and learned aspects of animal behavior

Students will be familiar with roles of behavior in ecology, reproduction, and evolution

Students will be familiar with current concepts of social behavior, communication, and cognition.

Students will be able to find and interpret scientific literature pertaining to the subject matter, and communicate in both written and oral presentation format

IV. Learning strategies

Reading assignments

Analysis of scientific literature

Individual work, analysis of free reading

Written synthesis of information

V. Course format

This is a "web-based" course- that is, you don't actually attend a lecture class.



College of Science and Engineering

Instead, you do all your work via our **D2L** site - enter through your MyLeo page. Check the website frequently (I'd recommend daily!) for announcements, instructions, and discussion; the closest thing to a lecture or office hours you'll get from me will be in the course discussion boards or via email. Try everything out early so you know that you can access it all. If you have difficulty with the material, talk to me *as soon as you can* for advice on how best to improve. Be sure to turn in work using appropriate file formats (doc, pdf, rtf, etc.- and NOT zip files!); if I can't open or read your work it cannot be graded and will be given a 0 score. I can't stress enough how important it is to keep up with the material...with this much reading and writing, it can be really difficult to catch up if you fall behind!

VI. Tentative schedule

**PART 1:** CH. 1-6. Principles of Animal Behavior, evolution, biology, learning & transmission.

**Weeks 1-5 (Aug. 29-Sept. 30)**

**Exam 1**

**PART 2:** CH. 7-12. Reproduction, cooperation, feeding & surviving.

**Weeks 6 – 10 (Oct. 3-Nov. 4)**

**Exam 2**

**PART 3:** CH. 13-17. Communication, location, & interactions.

**Weeks 11-15 (Nov. 7 – Dec. 9).**

**Exam 3 (Finals Period)**

VII. Course Requirement and Evaluation Method

Assignments, quizzes, and research paper are required. I encourage student contribution to the overall progress of the group. I encourage interactive participation even though is an online class. It is necessary that students have a professional and ethical behavior through the entire course.

Homework, quizzes, exams, concept implementation project and term paper are required.

It is necessary that students have a professional and ethical behavior through the entire course.

Grade basis:

17 chapter summaries (340 points)

5 assignments (50 points)

1 research project (100)

3 exams (300)

Total 790 points

Penalty enforcement (I reserve the right to adjust your grade for violation of the



minimum expectations).

Make-up quizzes will only be given if arrangements are made with the instructor before missing the scheduled quiz. A documented excuse will be required.

Otherwise, missing quizzes will be counted as zeroes in the overall grade computation.

Grading Scale:

90.0 – 100% = A

80.0 - 89.9% = B

70.0 - 79.9% = C

60.0 – 69.9% = D

<60.0% = F

Chapter summaries (17)

For each chapter summary, you will summarize the information contained in each book chapter. Try to synthesize the information and make connection among topics within the chapter. It should be a narrative not an outline of the chapter. Read the chapter, take notes and then write about it. Each summary should be at least 800-1000 words. These are the chapters. On that date, provide me a summary in the assigned dropbox.

Assignments (5)

Journal articles

Reading and assimilating information is a critical part of your current and continuing education. For each assign date, a journal is named in the right column of the table, choose and read a paper from that journal that you find interesting or relevant. These journals are available in our library (online resources). On that date, provide me a citation and a short description of the paper (10 sentences). Each summary will follow the format of The Journal of Wildlife Management.

Date	Journal
WEEK 2	Journal of Animal Behavior
WEEK 4	Journal of Insect Behavior
WEEK 6	Journal of Applied Ecology
WEEK 8	Ecology
WEEK 10	Behavioral Biology

Research project and presentation:

You will develop a research project (literature review) on a specific technique or set of techniques in Landscape Ecology. You should include an introduction, methodologies used to study your topic, results, and discussion. The research project will have at least 2,500 words including references. The project will be due the last day of class. You will present your research project in a 5-minutes video presentation and submit it in the assigned dropbox along with the written



part.

VIII. Course and University and Policies

*Responsible Use of Technology* — It is expected that all students will only use cellphones, PDAs, laptop computers, MP3 players and other technology outside of class time or when appropriate in class. Answering a cell phone, texting, listening to music or using a laptop computer for matters unrelated to the course may be grounds for dismissal from class and/or other penalties. Students are not allowed to use image, video, nor audio recording devices of any kind during class time without prior consent of the instructor.

*University Specific Procedures:*

*ADA Statement-Students with Disabilities:*

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services Texas A&M-Commerce  
Gee Library  
Room 132  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835  
Fax (903) 468-8148  
[StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)

*Nondiscrimination Notice*

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

*Student Conduct*

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.

*Campus Concealed Carry* - Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

# COMMERCE

College of Science and Engineering

((<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.