

BSc 537

Behavior and Conservation

Dr. Jeff Kopachena

McFarland Science Building, Rm 258

Email: Jeff.Kopachena@tamuc.edu



Office Location: Science Building, Rm. 258

University Email: Jeff.Kopachena@tamuc.edu

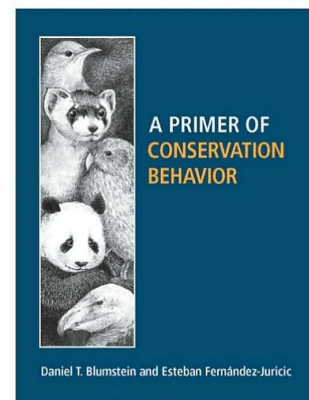
Preferred Communication: **Email**

DON'T CALL ON THE PHONE!!

I. Course Information

A. Textbook Required:

Daniel Blumstein and Esteban Fernández-Juricic.
A Primer of Conservation Behavior.
ISBN 978-0-87893-401-0



II. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Minimal Technical Skills Needed

1. Must be able to use the learning management system (D2L Online)
2. Must be able to use MS-Word
3. Must be able to read and write in the English language
4. Must be able to use a calendar and take tests on the appropriate date
5. Must be able to communicate via email and NOT CALL ON THE PHONE!

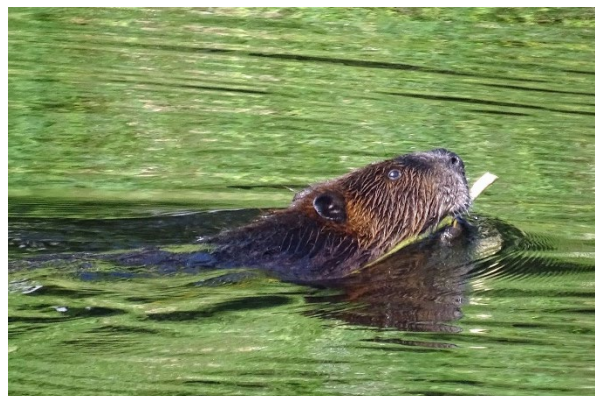
B. Instructional Methods

This is an ONLINE course. All the content is online. There are no class meetings.

Students are expected to read the relevant chapters in the textbook. The content is organized into pairs of chapters. For each pair of chapters there is a chapter review and a test based on the material in the textbook. Make sure you are familiar with the course schedule and make time to turn in your chapter reviews on time and take the tests when they are due. You are also required to review a scientific research article which also must be turned in on time.

C. Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

You are responsible for ensuring that you complete all of the tests and chapter reviews in a timely manner. Make sure you have the textbook prior to the start of class. When you are ready to take a test, make sure you have both the textbook and your chapter review available to refer to. Review the materials beforehand. Book-marking important sections of the textbook may also be very useful and help you look up answers more quickly. Detailed descriptions of the tests and assignments are provided below. You are responsible for being familiar with these instructions and in following them exactly as provided.



D. Course Description:

This course requires an understanding of biological processes at the organismal level, particularly population genetics, evolution, and animal behavior. The course is about how we can use animal behavior to enhance and improve conservation strategies. You are going to be doing a lot of reading and must read comprehensively. Tests must be taken on the assigned dates and there will be no make-up tests. Tests are open book and will consist of critical thinking questions. All assignments must be turned in at the assigned time. There will be no tolerance of late assignments and there will be no extra credit assignments.



Be sure that you are familiar with the course schedule and keep on track.

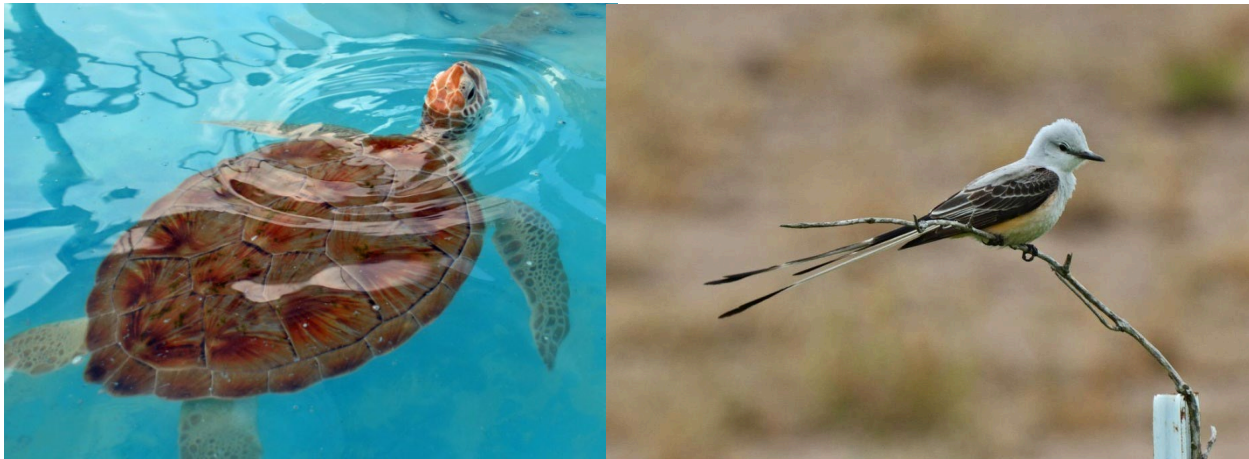
E. Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will know what conservation behavior is and what its objectives are.
2. Students will know how behavioral mechanisms are used to manipulate animal behavior.
3. Students will know how animals assess food, habitat, and mate choices and how these affect management decisions.
4. Students will understand how antipredator behaviors affect conservation strategies.
5. Students will know how communication systems are used in conservation plans.
6. Students will know what the demographic consequences of sexual selection and reproductive behaviors are.



There are 12 chapters in the course textbook and the course covers all of them. The course schedule is as follows. Details on assignments and tests are provided later in this syllabus and there is a calendar format of the schedule near the end of this syllabus.

Chapter	Review Due	Quiz Due
Chapter 1 and 2	June 4	June 4 or 5
Chapter 3 and 4	June 9	June 9 or 10
Chapter 5 and 6	June 14	June 14 or 15
Chapter 7 and 8	June 19	June 19 or 20
Chapter 9 and 10	June 24	June 24 or 25
Chapter 11 and 12	June 29	June 29 or 30
Article Review	July 1	
Final Exam: All chapters		July 2



For each pair of chapters, you will have to write a brief chapter review and there will be a chapter quiz. In addition, all students will complete an article review. A description of these assignments is provided below. The grading scheme will be as follows:

Grading Scheme:

Chapter Reviews	6 @ 7% each	42 %
Chapter Quizzes	6 @ 5% each	30 %
Final Exam	1 @ 15% each	15 %
Article Review	1 @ 13% each	13 %
Total		100 %

Important note about Due Dates and Times:

Please make sure you keep close track of all due dates. You can turn in your reviews at any time up to and including the review due date. You cannot turn in the review after the due date. This will allow you to work ahead if you want. However, keep in mind that the whole purpose of writing the review is to help you study for the test, so if you work too far ahead you will probably defeat that purpose. Also, I will not grade any reviews until after the review due date.

All quizzes and tests are scheduled over two days. You can take the test on either of the two days that it is open. Please look at the schedule in the syllabus carefully. You will need to allow 45 minutes for the quizzes. You can only take the quiz once, so once you are done you are done.

PLEASE NOTE: All students are responsible for having secure and reliable internet service. Nonetheless, internet services can be unpredictable at times. For this reason, **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO TAKE QUIZZES OR TURN IN ASSIGNMENTS.** If you turn in an assignment or try to take a quiz after 11:00 PM, I will not re-open the assignment or quiz and you will lose points for that assignment or quiz.

F. Chapter Reviews

Chapter reviews will be based on the assigned book chapters. For each pair of chapters, you will write, in your own words, a summary of the content of those chapters. Review each chapter as a separate sub-heading in your combined review. **Do not use any quotes. You will lose points for using quotes.** Write everything out in the form of paragraphs: **Do not use point form. You will lose points for using point form.**



You must highlight the major points covered by the chapters and how these points are relevant to understanding conservation behavior. Close each chapter review with a personal comment on what you thought about the material covered in the chapters.

You will lose points for failing to include a personal comment at the end of your review.

Your chapter reviews must be in **MS-Word format** and submitted by the due date indicated in the D2L course shell. **Reviews not in MS-Word format will receive a grade of zero.** Put your name on your review. Reviews must be written using Times New Roman, 12-point font, double spaced, no extra spaces between paragraphs, with 1” margins on all sides. Include a title page with your name and the title of the chapter you are reviewing.



You will lose points for not following this format.

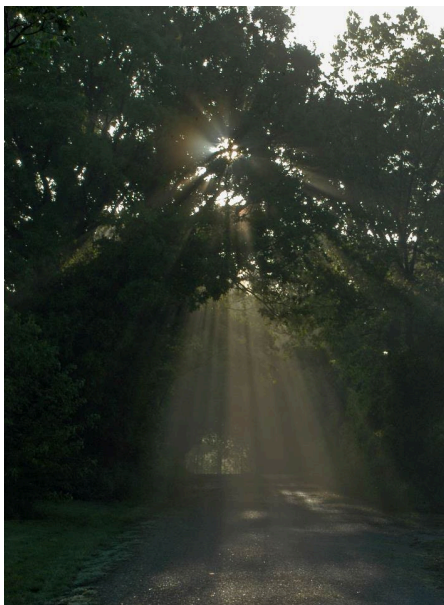
Your reviews should be a full five pages. **However, you need to write more than 5 pages if you expect full points** on your review, because even with 5 pages it is hard to cover the material comprehensively. **Reviews that are less than five pages will not receive full grades.** Having said that, excessive verbosity and padding will get you nowhere. If you wish to include figures and tables, do so by appending them to the back of the review. Figures and tables do not count toward the page limit. All chapter reviews must be submitted through D2L.

Reviews longer than five pages will not be penalized.

Important Note: This course uses Turnitin plagiarism software. This software compares all course submissions (chapter reviews, article reviews, etc.) to all published and unpublished materials including the course textbook and other student papers. It calculates a percentage match to these materials. Any student whose assignment yields a 20% or higher match will get a zero for their assignment. In the case of a 20% or higher match among two or more students, all of the individuals involved will get a zero for their assignment.

Because of this:

1. Do not use direct quotes
2. Be extremely careful about sharing your assignments with anyone – yes, anyone. That includes friends, family members, co-workers, etc.
3. Do not use other sites that may already contain chapter reviews as a template. If you do, you will be penalized for plagiarism, because that is plagiarism



G. Chapter Quizzes

Each pair of chapters will be followed by a chapter quiz. The chapter quiz will consist of 15 multiple choice questions. Quizzes will cover all material in the two chapters, including information in figures and tables. Quizzes will be timed, and you will have 45 minutes to complete the quiz. You will be expected to have full comprehension of the material. As a result, some questions will require

that you apply concepts covered in the chapter to examples that are not specifically mentioned in the textbook.

H. Article Reviews

During the semester you will select a current peer-reviewed article related to the material covered in the textbook. You will be required to write a review of this article. It is extremely important that you choose a peer-reviewed journal article. Review articles are acceptable, but again, must be professional reviews. To approach this assignment, flip through the various chapters in the textbook that are covered in the course. Find a topic that interests you and look for recent articles (2012 or more recent) on that subject.



Google scholar can be most useful for this purpose. Once you have found an article, please let me know so that I can evaluate its suitability. **You need to do this early just in case you have to use an inter-library loan to get the article.**

Using your own words, describe the purpose of the article, the methods used (if applicable), and the major findings of the article. Describe the significance of the work to the field of study. In doing so, you should read some of the background articles related to the one you are reviewing. Make sure you cite these articles in your review. Also include your opinion on the value of the article and its level of interest to you.



Your review must be in MS-Word format and submitted by the due date. Reviews must be written using Times New Roman, 12-point font, double spaced, no extra spaces between paragraphs, with 1” margins on all sides. Include a title page with your name and the title of the paper you are reviewing. **Your review should be no less than four pages and no more than 10 pages, not including the title page.** If you wish to include figures and tables, do so by appending them to the back of the review. Figures and tables do not count toward the page limit. All reviews must be submitted through D2L.

I. Final Exam

The final exam will be comprehensive. It will consist of 50 questions and you will have 2 hours to complete it. It will be based on the test banks used for the chapter quizzes.

J. Procrastination Penalty

All students are responsible for having secure and reliable internet service. Nonetheless, internet services can be unpredictable at times. For this reason, **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO TAKE QUIZZES OR TURN IN ASSIGNMENTS.** If you turn in an assignment or try to take a quiz after 11:00 PM, I will not re-open the assignment or quiz and you will lose points for that assignment or quiz.

Scroll to next page for course schedule in calendar format

June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 First class	2	3	4 Chapter 1 & 2 Review and Test	5 Chapter 1 & 2 Test	6
7	8	9 Chapter 3 & 4 Review and Test	10 Chapter 3 & 4 Test	11	12	13
14 Ch 5 & 6 Review and Test	15 Ch 5 & 6 Test	16	17	18	19 Ch 7 & 8 Review and Test	20 Ch 7 & 8 Test
21	22	23	24 Ch 9 & 10 Review and Test	25 26 Ch 9 & 10 Test	26	27
28	29 Ch 11 and 12 Review and Test	30 Ch 11 and 12 Test				

July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Article Review	2 Final Exam	3	4

III. Obligatory Statements:

****Disclaimer:** The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the schedule of the class. Any alterations will be announced in class, in D2L or via email by the instructor. Students who do not attend class, check D2L or their email assume responsibility for missing adjustments to the course.

IV. TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

A. LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

B. ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@etamu.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at

home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

C. COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

D. TECHNICAL SUPPORT

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

V. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COURSE

A. CWID AND PASSWORD

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@etamu.edu.

B. TECHNOLOGY-RELATED ISSUES

Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

VI. TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

A. MINIMAL TECHNICAL SKILLS NEEDED

Students will need reliable computer and internet access for this course. Students must be able to effectively use myLeo email, myLeo Online D2L, and Microsoft Office.

B. LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (LMS) – D2L

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are the technical requirements:

- View the [Learning Management System Requirements Webpage](#).
- Learn more on the [LMS Browser Support Webpage](#).

C. TECHNICAL SUPPORT

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found on the [Brightspace Support Webpage](#).

VII. COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

A. INTERACTION WITH INSTRUCTOR STATEMENT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor. Correspondence will always be through university email (your “myLeo” mail) and announcements in myLeo online (D2L). You will not RECEIVE email through D2L, so be sure to check your ETAMU email for communication. Students are encouraged to check university email daily.

B. INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EMAILS WITH INSTRUCTOR:

- Course name and subject in the subject line
 - Salutation (Good afternoon, Dr. Jackson)
 - Proper email etiquette (no “text” emails – use proper grammar and punctuation)
 - Student name and CWID after the body of the email (possibly add to student signature on email)
-

VIII. COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

A. SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

B. STUDENT CONDUCT

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The [Code of Student Conduct](#) is described in detail online in the [Student Guidebook](#).

Students should also consult the [Rules of Netiquette Webpage](#) for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum.

C. ETAMU ATTENDANCE

For more information about the attendance policy, please view the [Attendance Webpage](#) and the [Class Attendance Policy](#)

D. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

E. USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources

F. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES-- ADA STATEMENT

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

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Services](#)

G. NONDISCRIMINATION NOTICE

East Texas A&M University 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.

H. CAMPUS CONCEALED CARRY STATEMENT

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University 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 ETAMU Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M University campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

I. EAST TEXAS A&M SUPPORTS STUDENTS' MENTAL HEALTH – COUNSELING SERVICES

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

J. MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code or go to https://studentsupport.telushealth.com/us/about#download_app to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



As an Institutional Member of the National Association of Schools of Music, East Texas State A&M University supports the Association's commitment to student health and wellness. The following web address provides links to information for resources related to physical and mental well-being, as well as assists in offering preventative measures that students can take to avoid serious and/or chronic conditions: [Musician Health and Safety - East Texas A&M University](#)

K. DEPARTMENT AND ACCREDITING AGENCY STATEMENT:

School of Music Mission Statement:

The School of Music at East Texas A&M University promotes excellence in music through the rigorous study of music history, literature, theory, composition, pedagogy, and the preparation of music performance in applied study and ensembles to meet the highest standards of aesthetic expression.