

## COURSE SYLLABUS\*

### BIO 470w – Animal Behavior

Fall Semester, 2007

---

- Instructor:** Dr. Diane Neudorf  
Lee Drain Bldg. 115C  
Tel: 294-1548, Email: Neudorf@shsu.edu  
Web page: [http://www.shsu.edu/~bio\\_dln/](http://www.shsu.edu/~bio_dln/)  
Office hours: Mon., 9:00 – 10:00 AM, Tues. & Thurs. 9:30 -10:30 AM  
and Thurs. 3:00 – 4:00 PM, or by appointment
- Location & time:** Mon., Wed., & Fri. 8:00 – 9:00 AM, LDB 115
- Evaluation:** 3 Lecture Exams: 90 pts  
2 Lab Assignments: 15 pts  
Project Proposal: 10 pts  
Project: 25 pts  
Project Presentation: 10 pts  
Final Exam: 40 pts  
Participation: 10 pts
- Grading Scheme:** A=180-200, B=160–179, C=140-159, D=120-139, F <120
- Important Dates:** Sept. 14 Proposal Due  
Sept. 17 Exam I  
Oct. 15 Exam II  
Nov. 12 Exam III  
Nov. 28 Research Project Due  
Dec. 3 Research Presentations
- Textbooks:** Animal Behavior (8th Edition) by John Alcock
- Attendance:** In accordance with University Policy, regular attendance is required. Attendance will be taken at the start of each lecture. Students arriving after roll is complete will be marked late. Two late marks will be equivalent to one absence. Students with more than 3 unexcused absences will lose 5 points from their participation grade.
- Missed Exams:** Make-up exams will be offered only to students with written verification of illness, family emergency, religious event or required participation in an organized college event. In the latter two cases please notify me within the first 15 days of the semester.

**Writing Enhanced:** Please note that this is a writing enhanced class. Good writing skills (e.g. proper use of grammar, spelling, effective communication of ideas) will be emphasized for all assignments and tests. Please make use of the Writing Center located in the Sam Center for helping with written assignments.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.

**Classroom rules:** Cellular phones and pagers must be turned off during class time. Rude or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in, minimally, a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy. Visitors to the classroom will be permitted only with prior approval by me and if they do not present a disruption to the class.

**A note on Academic Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty includes cheating, collusion and plagiarism. It is a serious offense that at the very least will result in a failing grade on the assignment in question. Examples include: (1) Receiving or providing unauthorized assistance on an exam; (2) Using notes or other forms of unauthorized materials during an exam; (3) Submitting an assignment as one's own work that has been written in whole or in part by another; (4) Failing to properly indicate sources of borrowed words or ideas. For more information refer to "Code of Student Conduct and Discipline" in your SHSU student guidelines handbook.

## **Course Description:**

In this class we will study the mechanisms and functional explanations of animal behavior. Experimental approaches to addressing questions of behavior will be emphasized. Examples will be drawn from a variety of animal groups.

## **Course Objectives:**

After completing this course the student should be able to:

- 1) Understand and explain both proximate and ultimate causes for behavior.
- 2) Properly observe and quantify behavior.
- 3) Develop hypotheses to explain behavior.
- 4) Design and carry out experiments in animal behavior.

## Lecture Schedule

<b>Week:</b>	<b>Topic:</b>	<b>Readings:</b>
1	Introduction, History of Animal Behavior	
2	Levels of Analysis, Genetics of Behavior	Ch. 1-3
3	Learning & Development	Ch. 3
4	Neuroethology	Ch. 4
5	Hormones, Territoriality	Ch. 5
6	Navigation, Migration & Biological Clocks	Ch. 5
7	Habitat Selection, Communication	Ch. 8, 9
8	Anti-predator Behavior, Foraging	Ch. 6, 7
9	Sexual Selection	Ch. 10
10	Mating Systems	Ch. 11
11	Sperm Competition	Ch. 11
12	Brood Parasitism, Parental Care	Ch. 12
13	Social Behavior	Ch. 13
14	Human Sociobiology	Ch. 14
15	Animal Behavior and Conservation	

## Laboratory Schedule

Aug. 27	Introduction to Research Projects
Sept. 10	Observational Methods, Ethogram
Sept. 17	Research Project Planning
<b>Sept. 22</b>	<b>Saturday Field Trip to Zoo</b>
Sept. 24	Data collection
Oct. 1	Data collection
Oct. 8	Data collection
Oct. 15	Data collection
Oct. 22	Data collection
Oct. 29	Data collection
Nov. 5	Data collection
Nov. 12	Data collection, Statistical Analyses
Nov. 19	Data collection, Writing and Presenting a Scientific Paper
Nov. 26	Project completion
Dec. 3	Research Presentations

\* Please note that the course syllabus is tentative. Topics covered, exam dates, assignments and grading scheme are subject to change at my discretion.