

Animal Behavior
PSY 457-001
Spring 2012
MWF 9:00-9:50
S&B 209

Instructor: Dr. Kim Sawrey
Office: S&B 105B
Office Hours: MW 2:00-2:50,
& by appointment
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Required readings

Alcock, John (2009). *Animal Behavior: An evolutionary approach*, 9th Edition, Sinauer Associates Inc., Publishers, Sunderland, MA

Darwin, Charles (1859) *The Origin of Species*. Ch. XIV – Recapitulation and Conclusion. Online at: http://darwin-online.org.uk/pdf/1859_Origin_F373.pdf

Quammen, David (2006). *The Reluctant Mr. Darwin*, W.W. Norton & Co., New York.

Catalogue Description

PSY 457. Animal Behavior (3) Prerequisite: PSY 256 and BIO 105 or 202 or consent of instructor. Animal behavior including the traditional areas of ethology and comparative psychology. Primary emphasis is upon the similarities and differences in the behaviors of animals occupying various phylogenetic positions.

Course Goals:

The overall goal of this course is to provide you with an evolutionary framework from which to view behavior. A detailed knowledge of the principles of natural selection will allow you to better understand the behavior of animals, both human and non-human. If you make satisfactory progress in this course, you will be able to:

1. Recognize and describe basic terms and concepts in animal behavior;
2. Understand and describe the evidence for evolution by natural selection;
3. Understand and describe the logical steps involved in Darwin's formulation of natural selection;
4. Understand and describe the role of natural selection in behavior;
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the behavioral differences and similarities among a wide variety of species;
6. Demonstrate an understanding of the critical role of animal behavior in conservation efforts;
7. Describe a variety of research methods used in the behavioral sciences and recognize when those methods are used appropriately;
8. Locate and utilize appropriate scientific sources of information about animal behavior;
9. Write effectively in the style of the discipline.

Course Evaluation

I will evaluate your performance in this course using the assignments listed below:

Animal slide:	1 x 20 points = 20 points
Class Participation:	= 80 points
Presentation:	1 x 100 points = 100 points
Quizzes:	4 x 25 points = 100 points
Examinations:	2 x 100 points = <u>200 points</u> 500 points

The following grading scale will be employed for your final course grade:

- 90-100% of total points available (450-500) = A
- 80-89% of total points available (400-449) = B
- 70-79% of total points available (350-399) = C
- 60-69% of total points available (300-349) = D
- fewer than 60% of total points available (below 300) = F

Assignments

Animal slide: On January 18 you will turn in an electronic copy of a PowerPoint slide (via e-mail) illustrating an animal species that you have an interest in. Your slide must include at least one image of the animal, the common and scientific names of the species, a couple of interesting facts about the species (at least one that involves behavior), the sources of your information, and your name. You will be asked to provide a brief verbal description of your slide in class.

Presentations: Each student will deliver a PowerPoint presentation to class describing an article from the primary literature. The available dates for these presentations are listed on the schedule below. After selecting a topic, you will identify an article from the recent scientific literature to report on. Your PowerPoint presentation will be designed to help the class understand the work you are reporting on. On quizzes and the final examination, you and your colleagues will need to be able to answer questions about the article you presented. Detailed descriptions of this assignment will follow. Note: You may want to consider a variation of this project that requires original video footage of an animal and carries up to 25 additional points.

Examinations: The examination on March 9 will cover textbook chapters 1 – 7, *The Reluctant Mr. Darwin*, Chapter 14 from *The Origin*, and associated lectures. The final examination on Friday, May 4, will again have a similar format but will be longer. It will be designed to require 2 to 2.5 hours and will be cumulative. Information from all of the student presentations will also be included on the final examination. The format for examinations will be *mainly essay*. Each of these examinations will contribute 20% to your final course grade. If missed for legitimate reasons (e.g., hospitalization, death in the immediate family), an essay make-up examination, taken on the day of the final, may be substituted for the March 9 examination. Any student missing the mid-term examination must contact the instructor within 24 hours of the examination or they will receive a zero (F) and not be granted a make-up.

Quizzes: Questions will cover material from the reading assignments listed below and the accompanying lectures. A variety of objective and essay items may appear on those 15-30 minute assignments. Your highest four scores (of five) will together count as 20% of your total course grade. *No make-up quizzes will be given.*

An important point: To verify that you've read this syllabus and have a functional e-mail connection with Dr. Sawrey, introduce yourself electronically <sawrey@uncw.edu> with a brief description of your motivation for taking this class. Do so before 8 AM on Friday, January 13, 2012 and receive your first class participation points.

Other Course & UNCW Policies

e-mail: In addition to being available during office hours, I will answer questions and receive comments via e-mail. I will also dispense some course materials (review sheets, exam tips, etc.) to your UNCW e-mail address.

Academic integrity: Please read and be familiar with the Academic Honor Code (Section V in Student Handbook and Code of Student Life). In particular, understand the definitions of cheating and plagiarism in effect at UNCW and the consequences of such activities.

Violence and harassment: UNCW practices a zero-tolerance policy for violence and harassment of any kind. For emergencies contact UNCW CARE at 962-2273 or Police at 911.

Schedule

The quiz and examination dates that appear below are firm; they will not change. If you know now that you cannot be in class on any of those days, then you should drop this course now. Any change in the scheduled lecture or reading material will be announced in class.

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Critical Dates</u>
Jan. 11 – 18	Approaches; history	1	Slides due: Jan 18
Jan. 20	Student slides		
Jan. 23 – 25	Evolution – Natural Selection	1, Darwin	Quiz 1: Jan. 27
Jan. 30 – Feb 1	Birdsong, four questions	2	
Feb. 3	Darwin discussion	Quammen (pages 11-121)	
Feb. 6	Darwin discussion	Quammen (pages 122-253)	
Feb. 8	Natural selection discussion	<i>Origin</i> - Chapter 14	Quiz 2: Feb. 10
Feb. 13 – 15	Behavior genetics	3	
Feb. 17 – 22	Neuroethology	4	Quiz 3: Feb. 24
Feb. 27 –29	Behavioral Endocrinology	5	
March 2 – 7	Predator-prey interactions	6, 7	Exam 1: March 9
March 19, 26	Communication	9	
March 21, 23, 28	Student presentations	Primary literature	Quiz 4: March 30
Apr. 2 – 9	Mating systems & sexual selection	10, 11	
Apr. 4, 11	Student presentations	Primary literature	Quiz 5: April 13
Apr. 16	Parental behavior	12	
Apr. 18 - 20	Student presentations	Primary literature	
Apr 23, 30	Eusociality, Altruism	13	
Apr. 25 – 27	Student presentations	Primary literature	
May 4			Final Examination: Friday, May 14, 8:00- 11:00 AM