

Animal Behavior
PSY 457-01
MWF 9:00-9:50
TL 1009
Fall, 2013

Instructor: Dr. Kim Sawrey
Office: TL 3092
Office Hours: MW 1:00-2:50,
& by appointment
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Required readings

Alcock, John (2013). *Animal Behavior: An evolutionary approach*, 10th Edition, Sinauer Associates Inc., Publishers, Sunderland, MA

Darwin, C. R. and A. R. Wallace. (1858). On the tendency of species to form varieties; and on the perpetuation of varieties and species by natural means of selection. [Read 1 July] *Journal of the Proceedings of the Linnean Society of London. Zoology* 3 (20 August): 45-50.

Online at: <http://darwin-online.org.uk/content/frameset?pageseq=1&itemID=F350&viewtype=text>

“Darwin’s First Clues” <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2009/02/darwin/quammen-text/1>

“Alfred Russel Wallace” <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2008/12/wallace/quammen-text>

“Was Darwin Wrong” <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/static-legacy/ngm/0411/feature1/>

“Modern Darwins” <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/print/2009/02/darwin-legacy/ridley-text>

Additional required readings will consist mainly of examples from the primary literature. These will generally be assigned early each week and discussed in class on Fridays.

Catalogue Description

PSY 457. Animal Behavior (3) Prerequisite: PSY 256 and BIO 105 or BIO 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 four brief quizzes, a presentation, two major “mid-term” examinations, and a final examination. The quality and frequency of your contributions to our discussions in class will also contribute to your final course grade.

Animal slide:	1 x 25 = 25 points
Quizzes:	3 x 25 = 75 points
Presentation:	2 x 50 = 100 points
“Mid-terms”:	2 x 100 = 200 points
Final exam:	1 x 200 = 200 points
	500 points

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

90-100% of total points available (540-600) = A
80-89% of total points available (480-539) = B
70-79% of total points available (420-479) = C
60-69% of total points available (360-419) = D
fewer than 60% of total points available (below 360) = F

Quizzes: The best 3 (of four) quiz scores will contribute up to 75 points to your final course grade. ***No make-up quizzes will be given.*** 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.

Presentations: On August 26, each of you will share a single PowerPoint slide with the class. The slide will contain the common and scientific names of an animal of your choice. In addition at least one image of the animal is required and a description of at least one interesting about the behavioral fact about the species. On two later occasions you will lead a brief class discussion about an article that you have selected from the primary literature.

Examinations: The examination on September 20 will cover textbook chapters 1, 2, & 10 and associated lectures. The examination on October 25 will cover textbook chapters 3-5, parts of 15, and associated lectures. 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, an essay make-up examination, taken on the day of the final, will be substituted for one of these examinations. The final examination on Wednesday, December 6, 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. The final examination will count as 40% of your final course grade.

Other Course & UNCW Policies

Make-up exams: Make-up mid-terms will be given only in cases of personal emergency (hospitalization, death in the immediate family). Any student missing an 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.

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 (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>
Aug. 21– Aug. 23	Introduction, history	1	
Aug. 26	Animal slides		
Aug. 26 – Aug. 28	Darwin – Natural Selection	1, “Darwin’s First Clues” “Alfred Russel Wallace”	
Aug. 30	Darwin discussion	“Was Darwin Wrong” “Modern Darwins”	
Sept. 4 – Sept. 9	Altruism, Eusociality	2	Quiz 1, Sept. 6
Sept. 9	Honeybee communication	2	
Sept. 11 – 13	Four Questions – Birdsong	10	
Sept. 13	Article discussion		Exam 1, Sept. 20
Sept. 25	Helpers	3	
Sept. 27	Article discussion		
Sept. 30 – Oct. 2	Communication	4	Quiz 2, Oct. 4
Oct. 7 – Oct. 9	Predator-prey interactions	5	
Oct. 14 – Oct. 16	Neuroethology	13	
Oct. 18	Article discussion		
Oct. 21 – Oct. 23	Parental behavior	9	Exam 2, Oct. 25
Oct. 28 – Nov. 6	Behavioral endocrinology	13	Quiz 3, Nov. 8
Nov. 11 – Nov. 20	Sexual selection	7	Quiz 4, Nov. 22
Nov. 15	Article discussion		
Nov. 25 – Dec. 2	Mating systems	8	Final Examination: Friday, Dec. 6, 8:00- 11:00 AM