

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

Animal Behavior

Instructor: Scott L. Coleman, Ph.D.

Office: 415 Life Science

Office Hours: MW 10:00 – 11:00 am. via Teams, face-to-face, or by appointment

Phone: Psychology Department (817) 272-2281; Office (817) 272-0345

Mailbox: Psychology Department, Box 19528

Email: Send electronic mail regarding this course via Canvas

Weblinks: **Psychology Department** <http://www.uta.edu/psychology/>
Class uta.instructure.com

Teaching Assistant: To Be Announced

Course Description and Information

Section Information

3326-001 Biol/Psyc ANIMAL BEHAVIOR (3-0) 3 hours credit

Place and Time of Class Meetings

Location Life Science Bldg. Room 100. Time TTH, 9:30-10:50 a.m. Note: Echo 360 recordings of lectures will be posted to Canvas for student convenience.

Description of Course Content

The course will use an interdisciplinary approach to cover a broad range of topics in the field of animal behavior including basic theoretical and applied research at various phyletic levels.

Student Learning Outcomes

The goal of Biol/Psyc 3356 Animal Behavior is to familiarize students with biological and psychological theories in areas of adaptive and or survival-related topics such as reproductive behavior, foraging behavior, and anti-predator behavior. An additional goal is to familiarize students with the functional capacities of animals in areas of learning, cognition, and emotion among others. In particular students will:

- (1) demonstrate an understanding of how researchers have used biological and psychological theories to gain insight into why animals behave as they do.
- (2) understanding of the process of doing science in the context of studying animal behavior.

- (3) identify relationships between theories, behavioral examples derived from theory, and recognize form of behavior in various animal species.
- (4) learn quantitative methods in animal behavior research and associate various empirical measurement of behavior with research objectives.
- (5) gain insight in animal behavior's role in areas of applied science such as conservation biology and animal well-welfare.

Required Text

Lee A. Dugatkin (2014). Principles of Animal Behavior, 3th ed., W.W. Norton & Company, New York, NY. ISBN-13: 978-0393920451 ISBN-10: 0393920453. Note: a PDF version of the textbook is posted on Canvas.

Description of Major Assessments and Examinations

Each exam will be comprised of 50 "objective answer" questions that may or may not include Multiple Choice, True/False, and Matching questions. Any information presented in lecture including videos, documentaries, or web links may be included in course exams. All tests will be conducted online using Respondus Lockdown Browse with Respondus Monitor web cam feature. Instruction for Respondus is available on Canvas. Tests will be made available on the day of the exam from 8 am to 11:59 pm. Absolutely no collaboration is permitted on test taking. Any infraction will result in negative grading and academic consequences (see link to university academic integrity policy below).

Important Dates

Last day of late registration is August 25th, census date is September 6th, and last day to drop a class with a "W" is October 27th. Note: Drop requests must be submitted to advisor prior to 4 pm. Last day of classes is December 5th. See <https://www.uta.edu/academics/academic-calendar/fall-2023> for current UTA academic calendar.

Grading

Your course grade will be based on the average of 5 exams scores plus any extra-credit that applies. The exams are weighted equally so your scores will be averaged to obtain a letter grade, where, A>90%, B>80%, C>70%, D>60%, F<60%. Please note: Exams **will not** be "curved".

Make-up Exams

A single "make-up" exam session for missed exams will be held on **Thursday December 5th, 2023**. A request for taking a make-up exam must be made in writing. Please note: A "make-exam" is **not** a "do-over" exam for poor performance on a previously taken exam.

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study

Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 9 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc. Powerpoint notes can be found on the Canvas website. You should know that these notes

only provide a rough guideline of materials to be presented in class and cannot substitute for class attendance and taking lecture notes. Students are expected to read all course related materials and view multimedia-based materials on animal behavior provided in the course. Students should prepare for each lecture and participate in lecture discussions (e.g., ask questions and comments on relevant lecture topics).

Extra-credit

Students may accrue extra-credit via participation and completion of a behavior observation assignment worth up to 7% of the final grade. Behavior observations will take place during a field trip to the Ft. Worth Zoo usually in late October. It involves completing a variety of observation tasks and reporting on specific questions related to each behavioral observation. Details of the extra-credit assignment will be provided in a separate document at a later date.

Grade Grievance Policy

Students wishing to submit a grievance concerning the grade received in this course should follow the procedures outlined in the undergraduate catalog.

Institutional Information

UTA students are encouraged to review the below institutional policies and informational sections and reach out to the specific office with any questions. To view this institutional information, please visit the [Institutional Information](https://resources.uta.edu/provost/course-related-info/institutional-policies.php) page (<https://resources.uta.edu/provost/course-related-info/institutional-policies.php>) which includes the following policies among others:

- Drop Policy
- Disability Accommodations
- Title IX Policy
- Academic Integrity
- Student Feedback Survey
- Final Exam Schedule

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

Additional Information

Face Covering Policy

While the use of face coverings on campus is no longer mandatory, all students and instructional staff are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings while they are on campus. This is particularly true inside buildings and within classrooms and labs where social distancing is not

possible due to limited space. If a student needs an accommodation to ensure social distancing in the classroom due to being at high risk they are encouraged to work directly with the Student Access and Resource Center to assist in these accommodations. If students need masks, they may obtain them at the Central Library, the E.H. Hereford University Center's front desk or in their department.

Attendance Policy

At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required, thus attendance will not be taken in this course. However, attendance is a critical indicator of student success and is strongly encouraged. While UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients "begin attendance in a course." UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report must the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Canvas. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

Student Success Programs

UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include [tutoring by appointment](#), [drop-in tutoring](#), [etutoring](#), [supplemental instruction](#), [mentoring](#) (time management, study skills, etc.), [success coaching](#), [TRIO Student Support Services](#), and [student success workshops](#). For additional information, please email resources@uta.edu, or view the [Maverick Resources](#) website.

The IDEAS Center (<https://www.uta.edu/ideas/>) (2nd Floor of Central Library) offers **FREE tutoring** and **mentoring** to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. Students can drop in or check the schedule of available peer tutors at www.uta.edu/IDEAS, or call (817) 272-6593.

Emergency Response

Emergency Phone Number

In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone), **2-3003** (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381

Emergency Exit Procedures

Should we experience an emergency event that requires evacuation of the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, do not take an elevator but use the stairwells instead. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

Biol/Psyc 3326-001 Animal Behavior

Students are encouraged to subscribe to the MavAlert system that will send information in case of an emergency to their cell phones or email accounts. Anyone can subscribe at [Emergency Communication System](#).

Course Outline/Schedule

(Note: As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. – Scott L. Coleman, Ph.D.)

Aug./22-Sept./5: Animal behavior principles, history, research methods, and evolution concepts in behavior (5 lectures).

Tentative video: “To be announced”

Reading assignments: chapters 1 and 2.

Thursday Sept./7 - FIRST EXAM (on-line): Class material and reading assignments.

Sept./12-26: Animal learning, cultural transmission of behavior, and animal cognition (5 lectures).

Tentative video: “To be announced”

Reading assignments: chapters 5 and 6.

Thursday Sept./28 - SECOND EXAM (on-line): Class material and reading assignments.

Oct./3-17: Sexual selection, mating systems, and kinship (5 lectures).

Tentative video: “To be announced”

Reading assignments: chapters 7, 8, and 9.

Thursday Oct./19 - THIRD EXAM (on-line): Class material and reading assignments.

Oct./24-Nov./7: Foraging, anti-predator behavior, and play behavior (5 lectures).

Tentative video: “To be announced”

Reading assignments: chapters 11, 12, and 16.

Thursday Nov./9 - FOURTH EXAM (on-line): Class material and reading assignments.

Nov./14-Dec./3: Animal personality and various applied animal behavior topics (5 lectures).

Tentative video: “To be announced”

Reading assignment: chapter 17.

To Be Announced - FINAL EXAM (online): Class material and reading assignments.
