Welcome to BIOL 278 – Animal Behavior! With worldwide concerns like global warming, habitat destruction, prejudice against other cultures, and animal welfare issues, it is more important than ever to understand the behaviors of humans and other animals. Studying animal behavior helps us predict how animals will cope with today’s rapidly changing environments, aid their long-term survival in the wild, understand our own actions, and to develop best practices for keeping captive animals including laboratory animals, farm animals, and pets. This course teaches the science of animal behavior, and at the end of the course you will be able to:

1. Explain what animals do, how they do it, why they do it, and perhaps most importantly, how we as scientists can be sure that our information is accurate.
2. Discuss experimental procedures and results, and critically evaluate their conclusions.
3. Apply the principles of animal behavior to current worldwide problems.

Course Prerequisites: To receive credit, you must have achieved a passing grade in BIOL101 and 101L.

Course Website: [http://sakai.unc.edu](http://sakai.unc.edu)
This syllabus, lectures, supplemental readings, and other useful materials will be posted on the course website throughout the semester. It is your responsibility to check it and your UNC email account regularly.

Required Textbook: Nordell SE and Valone TJ. 2016. Second Edition. Animal Behavior: Concepts, Methods, and Application. Oxford University Press: New York. Reading assignments are listed on the lecture schedule and will be drawn either from the course textbook or journal articles posted on the course’s Sakai site. Readings should be completed prior to the lecture for which the reading is assigned. This material forms the basis for the reading quizzes (via Sakai) due before each class (see below for more information). During exams, you will be tested on facts in the readings (textbook and journal articles) including those that were not presented in lecture.

Evaluation of your performance in this course is done via a combination of reading quizzes, class participation (answering questions via LearningCatalytics, paper discussions, and presentations), and written tests. Late assignments are not accepted. There will be no extra-credit assignments.

Reading quizzes (8%): These quizzes must be completed by 11:00AM in Sakai. Please see the lecture schedule for more details. These quizzes will be graded for correct answers. The purpose of these activities is to help you practice using your knowledge and ensure that you come to class prepared to engage more actively with the material you have read about. No late assignments or quizzes will be accepted.

Class participation via Learning Catalytics (7%): We will be using Learning Catalytics (LC) as our classroom response system. Registration instructions are available on the course Sakai site. If you already have an account from prior use of Pearson products there is no need to create another account. If you have never used Learning Catalytics, visit [www.learningcatalytics.com](http://www.learningcatalytics.com) to register yourself prior to class. You must register using your official UNC email address as your login name and your UNC PID as your student ID. No exceptions! Complete instructions for LC registration can be found in the called “Instructions to Register for Learning Catalytics” in the Welcome Announcement. If you already have an LC account from a previous class you do not need to create a new account, just make sure you can log in successfully. We strongly recommend a phone or a tablet and not a laptop. However, you may bring your laptop to class if you wish.
(but see the Digital Etiquette section below). Remember that when using a web browser to respond to poll questions, you need to log into your LC account first. There will be many opportunities for participation throughout the semester, and you will be given 12 “freebie points” to take into account technical difficulties or unexpected absences. These freebies are questions that you do not have to submit an answer to and you will still earn points for. As such, please do not email us about making up poll questions. Class participation questions will be graded 50% for effort, 50% for correct answer (some questions may have multiple correct answers). If you miss class (for any reasons) you cannot make up your participation points, but you can use your “freebie points.”

**Paper discussions (4%)**: We will have two group discussions based on primary and secondary literature. See separate documents for details.

**Presentations (6%)**: You will give a 2-minute presentation of a piece of secondary literature relevant to animal behavior (worth 2% of your grade) and a 15-minute PowerPoint group presentation based on primary literature of how animal behavior research can be applied to current issues (worth 4% of your grade). See separate documents for details.

**Exams (75%)**: We will have two midterm exams and a final exam (each will be worth 100 pts and 25% of your grade). Exam questions will be taken from lectures, in-class activities, and assigned readings. On each midterm exam, approximately 75% of the points will be multiple-choice or true-false answers and 25% of the points will be written answers. The multiple-choice questions usually require a thoughtful analysis and only rarely rely on pure memorization. The written answers need to be clear, well-organized, and complete. The midterm exams are not cumulative, except that the advanced material at the end of the course builds on the basic material taught in the beginning. The final exam will only consist of multiple-choice and true-false questions. The final exam is cumulative with approximately half of the points will cover new material since the second midterm and the other half will cover old material. Permission to miss a midterm examination will be granted only in extreme circumstances (e.g. severe illness) and must be obtained in advance (at least two hours before the exam starts, but the sooner you let me know, the better!). Please note that unless you are an athlete or affiliated with UNC athletics, missing an exam to spectate at a sporting event does not constitute an extreme circumstance. We will not give make-up midterm exams under ANY circumstance if you contact us once the class has already taken the exam. In the event that you obtain permission to miss one midterm examination, your overall exam grade will be based on the remaining exams. Exams that are missed without advance permission will be given a score of zero points.

**Grade calculation**: Your letter grade will be based on the sum of your performances on quizzes, in-class participation, exams, and recitation according to the following scale:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>86-89.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-85.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>76-79.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-75.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>66-69.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;65.9%</td>
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To achieve a fair grade distribution, at the end of the semester, the instructors may adjust grade thresholds class-wide to improve your letter grades; the thresholds will under no circumstances be adjusted to lower your grades. There will be absolutely NO appeals regarding the final grading scale (e.g. “I earned a score of 89.9, can you round that to a 90?”). Grading disputes: Scores and final course grades will be changed ONLY in the event that an exam question was mis-graded or if exam points were totaled incorrectly. Bring your exam to your instructor and she will be happy to make a correction. All other requests for exam re-grading must be in the form of a WRITTEN appeal to the instructor justifying why your answer should be accepted. This appeal should be attached to your original, unaltered exam to be re-graded and turned in to the instructor. In the event that you request a re-grade of more than one question, we reserve the right to re-grade the entire exam. All appeals for changes must be made within 10 days after the exam is returned. We will not re-grade any question or exam after the 10 days have elapsed.
Office Hours: This is time that I set aside each week to meet with you one-on-one or in small groups. You get to direct these conversations, and this is a good opportunity for you to introduce yourself, talk about the course, study skills, personal matters, major and career advice, internship opportunities, etc. I hope to see all of you at least once during my office hours! To reserve a time to meet during office hours, use the "sign-up" feature on Sakai. Walk-in appointments during scheduled office hours are welcome, but may need to wait if I am already with a student. I may add hours some weeks as my schedule allows. You may also contact us to make an appointment outside these hours, but please give us 2-3 days advance notice.

Email: I will make every effort to respond to your emails quickly (within 2 days, except weekends). Please include BIOL 278 in the subject line. To comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), I am not allowed to respond to messages that refer to individual students or student progress in the course through non-UNC accounts, phone calls, or other types of electronic media.

Online forum: You can use Sakai – Forum – Q&A to ask your fellow students for help. Your instructor will weigh in occasionally, but only after seeing your solid effort to tackle a question. The quicker you begin asking questions, the quicker you will benefit from the collective knowledge of your classmates and instructor. We encourage you to ask questions when you are struggling to understand a concept—you can even do so anonymously. Rather than ask, “What is the answer to question 2?” please tell us what you think the answer is, and why you think it’s correct (or not), or tell your colleagues where you are stuck! This approach sparks conversation, which leads to learning. Also, please make sure to re-read the syllabus and lecture schedule before asking a logistics question!

Digital Etiquette: This course will require you to use a digital device during class time. Please be respectful of your classmates and restrict your use to course content. Despite what you may know about yourself, multi-tasking is actually a myth and the brain cannot perform two or more tasks simultaneously (it has to switch between tasks). Please be respectful of your own learning and those around you who will be distracted as you scroll through Instagram or catch up on basketball highlights. If I see that you or your peers are distracted, I will ask you to put your devices away and you may forfeit your ability to earn participation points that day. There will be times when you have completed your work or answered a LC question, but your peers have not. We ask that you assist your peers when appropriate or use the time to review your notes while you wait. We understand that your devices connect you to your friends and family, but the classroom should be a place apart, however briefly, from the outside world and distractions. You will learn more if you concentrate on the course while you are here, and your classmates will thank you for not impeding their ability to learn. If you have to answer a text or a phone call, please step out of the room and return once you have completed your conversation.

Honor Code: As in any course at UNC, you are expected to adhere to the student honor code (studentconduct.unc.edu) and you will be asked to sign your exam as an indication that you will do so.

Students needing accommodations: Please contact me within the first week of class if you will need special accommodations.

College can be challenging in unexpected ways. Sometimes your academic success may be hindered by sicknesses, personal emergencies, or competing personal responsibilities and interests. Remember that asking for help is a sign of strength and self-care. Small problems throughout the semester are easier to cope with. Therefore, please ask for help early and often, and do not wait until the end of the semester when the issue has escalated. While I sincerely hope that you will let me know when things are not going well, here are other campus resources you can turn to.

Dean of Students: If at any time during the semester you experience a personal or family illness, loss, financial stress, academic access, living issues, interpersonal violence response, alcohol or similar substance related issues, and other forces that may interfere with your well-being and success and/or academic retention please contact the Dean of Students immediately (or contact your professors and we will do so for you). http://deanofstudents.unc.edu
Academic Advising: Your academic advisers are familiar with all of the campus policies, procedures and requirements. http://advising.unc.edu

UNC Learning Center: A variety of services are offered at this center, located in the Student Academic Success Building (SASB). The resources include the writing center, academic coaching, study skills information, etc. Learn more about these free resources. http://learningcenter.unc.edu

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS): If you are experiencing any distress please speak with a medical professional in a confidential setting. The CAPS office has daily drop in hours or you may call them for an appointment (919-966-2281) or schedule online (healthyheels.unc.edu). http://campushealth.unc.edu/services/counseling-and-psychological-services

LGBT Center: Provides educational services, resources and advocacy. http://lgbtq.unc.edu Carolina Women's Center: Aims to provide an equitable working and educational environment regardless of gender. Provides assistance to all individuals regardless of gender orientation. http://womenscenter.unc.edu

International Student and Scholar Services: offers services to help international students adjust to life in North Carolina and UNC. http://isss.unc.edu