Biology 278 – Animal Behavior
Syllabus for Fall 2020

Time and Place: Remote and Asynchronous
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Office Hours: Thursdays by Zoom at 11 AM and by appt

Class Website: A website for Biol 278 –section 001 is available through http://sakai.unc.edu This syllabus itself, old exams, and various other items will be posted throughout the semester for your reading pleasure.

Course Goals: The course teaches the **science of animal behavior**. We will focus on what animals do, how they do it, why they do it, and perhaps most importantly, how WE as scientists can be sure of our information. That means we will spend a great deal of time discussing experimental procedures and results. You will be challenged to understand the experiments and conclusions and to think about them analytically.

Grading:

- We will have two homework assignments worth 10 points each. Each student will be assigned one lecture and one textbook chapter to write 5 study questions for. The questions will be sent to me via Sakai, I will edit them, and then post them anonymously for the class to use.
- We will have a brief quiz each Thursday that covers material from the previous week. Each quiz will be worth 6 pts. You will be allowed to drop your lowest two quiz grades. The quizzes are designed as practices for the exams. The quizzes will be timed and on Sakai.
- We will have two midterm exams. Each will be worth 100 pts and will consist of approximately 30-35 multiple choice questions.
- The final exam will be cumulative, worth 150 pts, and will be all multiple choice. There will be 50 questions. Approximately 100 pts will cover new material since the second midterm, and 50 pts will cover old material.

- The final grade will be calculated based on total points. Grades will be assigned using a 10-point scale. The scale will be adjusted each semester for fairness (always in the students' favor), although an 'A' typically requires at least 90%. Scores below 50% will always be failing grades. Scores below 60% will likely be failing.
- Additional notes: There will be no extra credit. However, weight is given to improvement over the course of the semester, so that any initial difficulties can be overcome with effort.

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

Text: Nordell SE and Valone, TJ. 2020. *Animal Behavior: Concepts, Methods, and Application*. Third edition. Oxford University Press: New York. (but second edition okay)

See next page for lecture schedule, exam dates, and suggested readings

Lecture, Reading, and Exam Schedule Fall 2020
(this is approximate - details are subject to change)

Date	Lecture	Topic	Readings
August 11, Tuesday	Lecture 1	Introduction	Chapter 1 and 2
August 13, Thursday	Lecture 2	Science of Behavior: History and Principles	Chapter 1 and 2; also Chapter 7 pp 157-162
August 18, Tuesday	Lecture 3	Genetics of Behavior CHECK HOMEWORK	Ch 3 and 4
August 20, Thursday	Lecture 4 Quiz 1	Evolution & Behavior	Ch 3 and 4
August 25, Tuesday	Lecture 5	Neural Basis of Behavior HOMEWORK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	Ch 5 pp 87-89; Ch. 7 pp 151-156
August 27, Thursday	Lecture 6 Quiz 2	Neural Basis of Behavior	Ch 5 pp 87-89; Ch. 7 pp 151-156
September 1, Tuesday	Lecture 7	Hormones & Behavior	Ch. 11 pp. 286-291 Ch 14 pp. 385-388
September 3, Thursday	Lecture 8 Quiz 3	Development of Behavior	Ch. 4, pp 71-73 (Birdsong Learning); Ch.7.163-177
September 8, Tuesday	Lecture 9	Development of Behavior/ Biological Rhythms	Parts of Ch 5 not covered elsewhere
September 10, Thursday	Exam 1	online, timed exam	
September 15, Tuesday	Lecture 10	Biological Rhythms	None
September 17, Thursday	Lecture 11 Quiz 4	Foraging Behavior	Ch. 5, pp. 89-103; Ch. 7 and 8
September 22, Tuesday	Lecture 12	Foraging/Antipredator Defenses	Ch. 8, Ch 9
September 24, Thursday	Lecture 13 Quiz 5	Antipredator Defenses	Ch. 9
September 29, Tuesday	Lecture 14	Animal Travels & Sea Turtles	Ch. 10
October 1, Thursday	Lecture 15 Quiz 6	Animal Travels & Sea Turtles	Ch. 10

Date	Lecture	Topic	Readings
October 6, Tuesday	Lecture 16	Dispersal & Migration	Ch. 10
October 8, Thursday		Habitat Selection	Ch. 11
October 13, Tuesday	Lecture 17	Territoriality and Conflict	Ch. 11
October 15, Thursday	Lecture 18 Quiz 7	Communication I	Ch. 6
October 20, Tuesday	Lecture 19	Communication II	
October 22, Thursday	**Exam 2**	**online, timed exam**	Ch. 6
October 27, Tuesday	Lecture 20	Sexual Selection: Mate Competition	Ch. 12
October 29, Thursday	Lecture 21 Quiz 8	Mate Competition/Choice	Ch. 12
November 3, Tuesday	Lecture 22	Mate Choice	Ch. 12
November 5, Thursday	Lecture 23 Quiz 9	Mating Systems	Ch. 13
November 10, Tuesday	Lecture 24	Parental Care	Ch. 13
November 12, Thursday	Lecture 25 Quiz 10	Costs and Benefits of Social Behavior	Ch. 14 LAST DAY OF CLASSES
November 17, Tuesday	Lecture 26	Cooperation & Altruism	Ch. 15 LAST DAY OF CLASSES
November 24 Tuesday at 12 PM		**Final exam – this will be an online, timed exam**	