

ANSC 310: Behavior and Management of Domestic Animals

Spring 2018 Syllabus

Instructor

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Teaching Assistants

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Meeting times

Lectures: Tuesday/Thursday 11:10-12:25 (HPCT 123)

Laboratories: Unless otherwise specified, laboratories will be held in 200 KLCT

Section 901: Tuesday 1:00 - 2:50

Section 902: Thursday 3:00-4:50

COURSE GOALS

Animal behavior is a relatively recent, yet rapidly growing major area of scientific research in agricultural animal management. This course concerns the scientific study of domestic farm animal behavior, and will provide a fairly broad introduction to species specific behaviors and how understanding and applying the principles of animal behavior can facilitate best practices in the field.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Gain a solid understanding of animal behavior as it related to farm animal management
- 2) Learn to apply ethological principles and species behavioral traits to facilitate best practices in the field
- 3) Gain experience expressing scientific ideas in writing and orally
- 4) Gain experience collecting, analyzing, and reporting animal behavior observations and relating your observations to the primary literature and current auditing programs
- 5) Gain fundamental understanding of ethical principles underlying animal management practices

A cautionary note: Do not expect this course to resemble a National Geographic special in which animal behaviors are often dealt with in an entirely descriptive manner. This is an upper-level course in Animal Science, and carries the same assumptions and expectations as other courses for Animal Science majors.

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENT

This is a writing-intensive course. Material will be presented during a lecture/discussion arena and the knowledge gained during the lecture will be applied in the laboratory sessions. Students will be expected to synthesize information gained from lectures and labs through writing assignments. We will also cover material from relevant textbooks, the primary literature-research and review articles in journals and symposia. There is also an on-farm component.

STUDENTS WILL BE EXPECTED TO:

- 1) Attend and participate in active learning exercises on farm and in the classroom
- 2) Be prepared for class (*aka. Complete reading assignments BEFORE coming to class*)
- 3) Ask questions or ask for assistance when further clarification is needed

WRITING AND SCIENTIFIC REPORTING COMPONENT

“Readability is as important for the scientific writer as it is for the novelist” – D.O. Hebb

The best science is useless if the information is poorly disseminated. Therefore, it is important to develop as a scientific communicator and writer. There will be multiple writing assignments in this course that will build upon one another towards a final scientific report and poster presentation.

Assistance with writing assignments

1. Students are encouraged to submit drafts of their written assignments 1-2 weeks prior to the due date for preliminary evaluation. The draft will be returned to the student within a few days of receipt with corrections and suggestions for improvement.
2. Requests for evaluation that are submitted less than seven (7) days prior to the due date will be denied.
3. Students are encouraged to use the University Writing Center (UWC) located in Evans Library 1.214 to enhance their proofreading and editing skills. More information can be found at uwc.tamu.edu

Laboratories

Participation is mandatory.

Many of the laboratories will be held on-farm. Therefore, the student is expected to arrive in appropriate attire (e.g., no sandals). You may be expected work around livestock in wet conditions, walk through alleys that may contain manure, and walk into pastures that may contain stickers, burrs, and live animals who can be unpredictable.

Working on a farm inherently requires the use of farm equipment, which is potentially dangerous. If anything looks dangerous, immediately inform the instructor. Also, handling animals and equipment during class is optional.

Exams

There will be two (2) 1-hour in-class exams. Each exam will include a short essay portion. There will be no final exam, as this is the time period in which we will have our poster presentation forum and poster peer reviews.

Quizzes

Lectures may begin with a short quiz that covers the material discussed in the previous lecture session. Quizzes will be unannounced.

Text

Measuring Behaviour: An Introductory Guide 3rd Edition. By Paul Martin and Patrick Baetson. ISBN-13: 978-0521535632; ISBN-10: 0521535638

Late work policy

A late assignment is an unacceptable assignment. Any work turned in after the due date will be given a score of zero.

University Policy States: the student must notify his or her instructor in writing (acknowledged e-mail is acceptable) prior to the date of absence if such notification is feasible.

In cases where advance notification is not feasible (e.g., accident or emergency) the student must provide notification by the end of the second working day after the absence. This notification should include an explanation of why notice could not be sent prior to the class.

The University requires that a student present an approved excuse before students can be given a make-up exam. It is the student's responsibility to arrange for a make-up exam.

If Dr. Daigle does not hear from a student who missed an exam by the end of the second working day after that exam, the student will be given a grade of zero for that exam.

Grading

A point system will be used to indicate the relative weight of exams, quizzes, presentations, etc.

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Points</i>
Exam 1	75
Exam 2	100
Quizzes	80
Laboratories	120
Behavioral observations & ethogram development	50
Term project proposal	50
Defining Animal Welfare Assignment	20
Undercover video exercise	25
Term project final report	150
Poster presentation	100
Peer review of poster presentations	30
Understanding THIS animal's behavior	40
<i>Total points possible</i>	<i>840</i>

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Point Range</u>
A	840-752
B	751-668
C	667-584
D	583-500
F	< 500

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities.

If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, currently located in the Disability Services building at the Student Services at White Creek complex on west campus or call 979-845-1637. For additional information, visit <http://disability.tamu.edu>.

Academic Integrity Statement

“An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do.”

The Aggie Honor System was recently revised. It now requires that a report of scholastic dishonesty will be submitted by the faculty member to the Aggie Honors Council for handling and checking for repeat offenders. In the past instructors could handle it themselves by, for example, giving a student an F in the class. But now, reports bypass

both the department and college, and all reports will be taken care of in a “consistent” manner. Which means it is entered on the student’s record.

Because of consequences for the student, knowledge of the Aggie Honor Code, from definitions of academic misconduct to the process and sanctions that may result, is important. All aspects are described on the Aggie Honor System website www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor/.

From TAMU Student Rules

Student Rule 2.15: Plagiarism is the intentional use of ideas, words or data of another person without giving appropriate credit.

Student Rule 20.1: Commission of the following acts shall constitute scholastic dishonesty.

20.1.3: Plagiarism: Failing to credit sources used in a work product in an attempt to pass off the work as one's own. Attempting to receive credit for work performed by another, including papers obtained in whole or in part from individuals or other sources.

20.1.4: Conspiracy: Agreeing with one or more persons to commit any act of scholastic dishonesty.

“The usual penalty for a first plagiarism violation is an F in the class and an honor violation probation. That means the student loses certain rights, including the right to represent the university off campus, hold office in a campus organization, or receive an Aggie ring. Students can remove those restrictions (but not the F) by successfully completing a remediation course.” (from the Writing Center)

Day	Date	Lecture Topic	Laboratory Activity
Tues	1/16	Introduction/overview	How to conduct a behavioral experiment
Thurs	1/18	History of Behavior, proximate and ultimate	
Tues	1/23	Sheep behavior	Sheep handling and vax (Sheep center)
Thurs	1/25	Stress Behavior & Physiology	Defining assignment due
Tues	1/30	Swine behavior	Swine handling fundamentals (swine center)
Thurs	2/1	Biomedical research <i>Guest: Ms. Keely McGrew</i>	Behavior observation and ethogram development due
Tues	2/6	Human-Animal Interaction	LARR tour
Thurs	2/8	Evolution & domestication	Term project proposal due
Tues	2/13	Motivation	Cattle handling masterclass (Beef Center)
Thurs	2/15	Learning & cognition	<i>Guest: Dr. Ron Gill</i>
Tues	2/20	Environmental enrichment	Swine enrichment
Thurs	2/22	Exam 1	
Tues	2/27	Poultry behavior <i>Guest: Dr. Greg Archer</i>	Poultry facilities tour and assessment
Thurs	3/1	Cattle social behavior	
Tues	3/6	No class - CALF WATCH	NO LABORATORY
Thurs	3/8	No class - CALF WATCH	Calf watch
Tues	3/13	Spring Break – No class	Spring Break – No laboratory
Thurs	3/15	Spring Break – No class	
Tues	3/20	Animal welfare	Police animal training <i>Guest: Sgt. Rick Wagner</i>
Thurs	3/22	Communication	Undercover video exercise due
Tues	3/27	Horse behavior	Horse handling fundamentals
Thurs	3/29	Early experiences	
Tues	4/3	Motivation	NO LABORATORY
Thurs	4/5	No class – work on reports	
Tues	4/10	Feedlot cattle behavior and management	Temperament and perception (Beef Center)
Thurs	4/12	Sickness behavior	Term project final report due
Tues	4/17	TBD	Live welfare assessment
Thurs	4/19	TBD	
Tues	4/24	TBD	Swine bathing
Thurs	4/26	Exam 2	
Tues	5/1	Redefined day – attend Friday classes	
Thurs	5/3	Final Exam 3-5pm	

