

Animal Behavior & Welfare Laboratory Research
ANSC 291 / ANSC 485 / ANSC 491 Syllabus
Texas A&M University

Instructor:

Dr. Courtney Daigle
Assistant Professor
Office hours: By appointment

Phone: (979)-862-9171
Email: cdaigle@tamu.edu

Teaching Assistants:

Amanda Mathias
Graduate Student
Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (918)-409-5838
Email: a.mathias@tamu.edu

Rachel Park
Graduate Student
Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (330)-931-7526
Email: rachelpark@tamu.edu

Emily Ridge
Graduate Student
Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (979)-446-5720
Email: Emily.vanraay@tamu.edu

Objective:

The goal of this course is to familiarize students with research techniques, as well as engage students in the science of animal welfare through hands on learning. The main learning outcomes for this course are to 1) understand how to interpret an ethogram, 2) acquire the skills to decode animal behavior and 3) be informed of current animal welfare issues.

Text:

We will be utilizing a team drive via TAMU access to google drive. All laboratory members will have access to the drive and all files on the drive. The drive has files for all projects as well as additional files relevant to the functioning of the lab. You are highly encouraged to look on the drive for guidance, as there are help documents available. The drive is also where you will upload any progress on your assigned research project.

Meeting time and location:

Individual meeting times are assigned based on schedules and availability. The schedule is uploaded on the team drive. The lab is located in KLCT 237.

There will be monthly laboratory meetings. Location will be announced at the beginning of each semester.

Responsibilities for Lab Members:

In joining the lab, students will enroll in research credits to ensure that their presence in Kleberg is accounted for by the university. Students have the option to enroll in 0, 1, 2 or more credit

hours. Students enrolled in 2 credit hours or less have the expectation to commit at minimum 6 hours per week to the lab. Students enrolled in more than 2 credit hours must consult with Dr. Daigle as they have an increased expectation of hours committed to the lab. Students are allowed and encouraged to work more hours than required.

Students must complete CITI training under the curriculum group of “Working with the IACUC”. Documentation of CITI completion must be saved into a PDF and uploaded into the team drive folder “CITI Documentation”. This training must be completed prior to working in the lab.

Lab members are responsible for working diligently on their assigned research projects. As research projects differ in needs, the responsibilities of team members may vary but could include decoding animal behavior on video, gathering scientific literary resources, helping with on farm projects by working cattle, fixing equipment, etc. For more detailed expectations with specific research projects, please communicate with your specific graduate student.

Guidelines for Peer Reviewed Literary Articles:

At laboratory meetings, students may be selected to provide a peer reviewed literature article for the group to discuss. The student selected will search for an article that is relevant to the field of animal welfare and behavior. After selection of the article, the student will upload the article to the drive in the folder titled, “Lab Meeting Journal Articles”. This should be done at least 7 days prior to the lab meeting so that all lab members have adequate time to review the article. The article will serve to facilitate discussion on a current animal welfare issue among lab members.

Attendance:

Laboratory attendance is mandatory. Your assigned laboratory schedule should be considered part of your schedule just as a course would be. It is important that you are on time and stay for the duration of your shift as your work contributes to the overall completion and success of the research project you are assigned to.

Points will be deducted off of your overall course grade for tardiness and missed shifts. See details below in the ‘Grading’ section of the syllabus.

Grading

A point system will be used to indicate the relative weight of attendance, participation, etc.

There is a maximum of 300 points.

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Points</i>
Lab work shift attendance	200
Lab meeting attendance and participation	90
Completion of CITI training	10
<i>Total points possible</i>	<i>300</i>

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Point Range</u>
A	300-269
B	268-239
C	238-209
D	208-179
F	< 179

For each shift or lab meeting that is missed without a university approved absence or prior notice and arrangement with Dr. Daigle and their graduate student, 20 points will be deducted from your overall grade.

For each shift in which the student is more than 10 minutes late, 10 points will be deducted from your overall grade.

ADA Policy:

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:

Aggie Honor Code

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

Upon accepting admission to Texas A&M University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor System. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the Texas A&M University community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor System. For additional information please visit <http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu/>. On course work, assignments, and examinations at Texas A&M University, you may be asked to sign the following Honor Pledge:

“On my honor, as an Aggie, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this academic work.”