

Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology 201
Spring 2002, MWF 10:40-11:30

Professor: Dr. Kimran Miller

Office: Language 102 / Office hours: Monday 11:30-12:30 and by appointment

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Required texts (purchase at bookstore): Animal behavior, 7th ed. John Alcock, Sinauer Associates. 2001; Primate behavioral ecology (PBE below), Karen Strier, Allyn and Bacon

Revised lecture schedule

Jan 16, 18, 23	Introduction to animal behavior / History of animal behavior Ch. 1
Jan 25	Evolution of behavior/ Phylogenetics The Evolution of Behavior, ON RESERVE (in library or on web)
Jan 28	Primate evolution Ch 2 PBE
Jan 30	Primate phylogeny Ch 2 PBE
Feb 1	Film
Feb 4, 6	Development of behavior: heredity Ch. 3
Feb 8, 11	Development of behavior: environment Ch. 4
Feb 13, 15	Control of behavior: neural mechanisms Ch. 5
Feb 18, 20	Organization of behavior: neurons and hormones Ch. 6
Feb 22, 25	Adaptations (Example: antipredator behavior) Ch. 7, pg 113-114 PBE
Feb 27	Film
Mar 1	Exam 1

Mar 4, 6	Feeding behavior Ch. 8, pg 168-192 PBE
Mar 8, 18	Choosing where to live / mid semester evaluation Ch. 9
Mar 11-15	***** Spring break!! *****
Mar 20, 22	Communication Ch. 10, pg 276-284 PBE
Mar 25	Film
Mar 27, 29	Sexual selection Ch. 11, pg 133-141 PBE
Ap 1	Film
Ap 3, 5	Mating systems Ch. 12
Ap 8, 10, 12	Parental care / Cooperative breeding Ch. 13, pg 259 PBE
Ap 15	Exam 2
Ap 17, 19, 22	Social behavior Ch. 14, pg 119-128 PBE
Ap 24, 26	Human behavior Ch. 15
Ap 29	Catch up or wrap up
May 6	Final exam, 9 am – 12 pm

All dates are tentative. We may spend more or less time on a given topic or introduce new topics.

Point distribution:

Lecture exams	100 points each exam = 200 pts
Final exam	= 150 pts
Participation	14 discussions (0, 2 or 4 points earned per discussion) = 56 points maximum
Total points	= 406 points

Course objectives:

1. introduce topics central to animal behavior
2. highlight the evolutionary basis for behaviors
3. emphasize nonhuman primate examples

Do not hesitate to use both textbooks, even though I have not assigned all chapters in both books. The books compliment each other and if concepts are not clear in one text, the other text may be consulted.

Honor code: The honor code should be adhered to in all aspects of this course. Your signature on all work completed in this course attests to your upholding the honor code.

Absences: There are no excused absences from lecture. The student may be absent four times without penalty. Additional absences will result in a grade reduction.

Missed tests: Ordinarily, tests cannot be made up, however, this is up to the instructor. If a student misses a test and the absence is acceptable, the missed test will not count for or against the student. If the absence is not excused, the grade will be a zero. Students are cautioned that any excuse for missing an exam will come under the severe scrutiny of the instructor. The instructor must be notified prior to the time of the exam, and the instructor makes the final decision regarding whether or not the absence is acceptable.

Religious holidays: Students must notify the instructor one week in advance if they intend to be absent for a religious holiday.

Tardiness: Three tardies equal an absence. The tardy student is responsible for notifying the instructor that she/he entered the classroom late, and therefore, was not absent. The instructor reserves the option to exclude the student from further classroom participation if the student is continuously tardy.

