Course Syllabus
Lecture: T/Th 10:50- 12:05 PM – Main 2.420
Lab/Discussion: T/Th 1:40- 2:55 PM – LHSB 1.802

Instructor: Dr. Lucia Carreon Martinez
Office: LHSB 2.712
Email: lucia.carreonmartinez@utrgv.edu
Phone: 882-5197
Office Hours: T/Th 3-4 PM; W: 10- 12 PM; F 2-4 PM or by Appointment

Class Description
This course introduces students to the biological basis of animal behaviors. The lecture will prepare students to: recognize features that allow classification of behaviors across diverse animal taxa; understand the adaptive significance of behaviors; appreciate the unique evolutionary history that led to the behaviors we observe in animals today. Lab/Discussion sections will introduce students to primary and secondary literature in a diverse array of animal behavior research topics that lead to a better understanding of why animals do the things they do.

Required Texts

Get an additional 20% off of their OUP/Sinauer course materials at www.oup.com/us/he by entering discount code  33929. This discount code expires January 31, 2018

Course Objectives Met By Student
At the end of this course, students will be able to discuss and describe the basic concepts of and apply these concepts in real-life situations as used by researchers of animal behavior. To achieve this objective, the student will need to:
1) Attend and participate in all lecture and labs discussions.
2) Prepare for class by reading textbook chapters & assigned material prior to class.
3) Integrate the information learned during the lecture portion of the course to the lab to understand the adaptations of animals.

Course Objectives Met By Instructor
To facilitate meeting the objectives of the course, the instructor will lead the class in a combination of traditional lectures and lively class discussions. Occasionally the instructor will introduce current discoveries or controversies for class discussions. Students also are encouraged to ask questions or introduce relevant subjects at any point during class lectures or outside of class to ignite discussions relevant to the discipline of animal behavior. The instructor periodically will make notes and supplemental information (readings, practice quizzes, reviews, etc.) available on blackboard (https://my.utrgv.edu/group/myutrgv/home) to assist the students in learning and comprehending the information.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week of</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Lab topic/ discussion</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 18</td>
<td>Introduction to Animal Behavior</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 23</td>
<td>Behavioral Ecology</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 30</td>
<td>Social Behavior</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 6</td>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 13</td>
<td>EXAM 1 &amp; Predators &amp; Foraging</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>GPZ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Grading
Your final grade will be assigned in both lecture & lab and will be comprised of four (4) lecture exams (150 pts each= 600 pts), laboratory participation, attendance and Gladys Porter Zoo project presentation and laboratory journal (100 pts each=300 pts), and class participation (150 pts). Grades will be assigned according to the official UTRGV grading policy, which can be found at the following link: [http://www.utrgv.edu/en-us/academics/utb-utpa-current-students/u-central/grades-and-transcripts/index.htm](http://www.utrgv.edu/en-us/academics/utb-utpa-current-students/u-central/grades-and-transcripts/index.htm)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>900-1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>800-899.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>700-799.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>600-699.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>599 and Under</td>
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## Exams & Make-up Exam & Absences
Students are expected to attend and be on time for all lecture and lab periods. **Exams, quizzes, labs and many assignments cannot be made up after an absence.** Be sure to inform the instructor beforehand if you know you will miss a class so that arrangements may be made prior to the absence.

Tests will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false and essay questions. **Essay questions must be written in complete, grammatically correct sentences. Points will be deducted for grammatical and sentence structure errors. Some topics build on previous topics and chapters, therefore there will be questions related to previous topics on each of the tests you take.**

## Attendance Policy
**You must come to class AND be on time. You will not be successful if you do not attend class.**

## Exam Policy
- **There are NO make-up exams. I understand that sometimes you may have to be absent due to circumstances beyond control. Contact me if you know you will be out before the test and we will see what we can do about it.**
- **Be on time on test days. Once the first test is turned in, no other test will be given out. If you come late (after the first test is turned in) you will not be allowed to take the exam.**
Animal Behavior BIOL4432-01 – Spring 2018

• You must place all backpacks and books at the front of the classroom during exams. The only things you may have on your desktop during a test are 1) a Scantron, 2) a # 2 pencil with eraser and 3) the essay question.
• Your cell phone must be OFF (not on vibrate) and in your backpack, purse, etc, placed at the front of the room. Any phones observed during testing may lead to a loss of grade.
• You may not listen to music during tests. All earbuds, headphones, etc… must be out of sight during exams. Ears need to be visible (no hoodies, hair over face, etc).
• You may NOT leave the classroom once you have started an exam. There are no restroom breaks during an exam. If you have a health emergency due to an illness, please bring a note and speak to instructor BEFORE the exam.
• Test are taken on Scantrons; which you must provide, so a number 2 pencil is required. If Scantron’s are wrinkled I will not accept it and you’ll earn a 0 for the exam.

Cell Phone/Electronics Policy
• NO CELL PHONES!!!!! If I see you texting, playing games, watching YouTube, etc… during lecture, you will be asked to do so in the hall way. Please understand that I know what you are doing if I see you looking down for long periods of time at your lap and I don’t see your hands.

Calendar of Activities
The UTRGV academic calendar can be found at https://my.utrgv.edu/home at the bottom of the screen, prior to login. Some important dates for spring 2018 include:

January 16   First day of classes
January 19   Last day to add a course or register for spring 2018
March 12 – 17   SPRING BREAK – NO classes
March 30 – 31   EASTER HOLIDAY – NO classes
April 12   Last day to drop a course; will count toward the 6-drop rule
May 2   Last day of classes
May 3   Study Day – NO class
May 4 – 10   Spring 2018 Final Exams
May 11 - 12   Commencement Ceremonies

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:
Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive academic accommodations should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible to schedule an appointment to initiate services. Accommodations can be arranged through SAS at any time, but are not retroactive.
Students who suffer a broken bone, severe injury or undergo surgery during the semester are eligible for temporary services. Brownsville Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at ability@utrgv.edu. Edinburg Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:
Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available:
Spring 2018 Module 1   February 14 – February 20
Spring 2018 Module 2   April 11 – April 17
ATTENDANCE:
Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV’s attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations.

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY:
As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism (including self-plagiarism), and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE
In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “Responsible Employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect that is free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

COURSE DROPS
According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

Student Services:
Students who demonstrate financial need have a variety of options when it comes to paying for college costs, such as scholarships, grants, loans and work-study. Students should visit the Students Services Center (U Central) for additional information. U Central is located in BMAIN 1.100 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 1.145 (Edinburg) or can be reached by email (ubectl@utrgv.edu) or telephone: (888) 882-4026. In addition to financial aid, U Central can assist students with registration and admissions.

Students seeking academic help in their studies can use university resources in addition to an instructor’s office hours. University Resources include the Learning Center, Writing Center, Advising Center and Career Center. The centers provide services such as tutoring, writing help, critical thinking, study skills, degree planning, and student employment. Locations are:

- Learning center: BSTUN 2.10 (Brownsville) or ELCTR 100 (Edinburg)
- Writing center: BLIBR 3.206 (Brownsville) or ESTAC 3.119 (Edinburg)
- Advising center: BMAIN 1.400 (Brownsville) or ESWKH 101 (Edinburg)
- Career center: BCRTZ 129 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 2.101 (Edinburg)