

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT ANIMAL BEHAVIOR SYLLABUS BIOL 4650/6650 – Spring 2022

Instructor Name: Emily Rose, Ph.D.

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Office Location: Bailey Science Building 2211

Office Hours: Tuesday 3:15-5:15, Wednesday 10-12, Thursday 3:15-4:15pm and by appointment, email for arranging virtual meetings with [Zoom](#)

Lecture & Lab location: Bailey Science Center 1085

Lecture times: Tuesday & Thursday 8:00-9:15am

Lab time: Thursday 9:30am-12:20pm

Course Overview:

BIOL 4650/6650 Animal Behavior. 4 Hours. Prerequisites: BIOL 1107, 1107L, BIOL 1108, 1108L, BIOL 3250 and BIOL 3200. Introduction to the major concepts of causation, development, evolution, and ecology of animal behavior, emphasizing the behavior of social animals.

Required Materials

Textbook: Animal Behavior: Concepts, Methods, and Applications 3rd Edition by Nordell and Valone, Oxford University Press

Excel- Provided by VSU through your email account

Free online computer programs: J, BORIS, and Peak Scanner

Tentative Plan for the Course Format:

We will be meeting face-to-face for lecture and labs. We will have several labs that will include fieldwork outside. Students will be required to have access to Excel either on their own machines, in a computer lab or by remote access to lab computers to complete assignments. If there are changes to the course format due to COVID-19 you will be notified by Dr. Rose via email and announcements on BlazeVIEW, in addition to the official University emails. If you are unable to attend class in person due to illness, you are responsible for contacting Dr. Rose directly to make arrangements. Online accommodations will only be made for students who have VSU approval.

Course Learning Objectives:

This course covers a wide range of topics within the realm of animal behavior and allows student to develop their own ideas through experiential learning processes. The laboratory portion offers students the opportunity to be directly involved with experimentation and techniques for studying animal behaviors. Students will demonstrate understanding of the scientific principles that relate to the study of animal behavior in an evolutionary context, including

- a. The neural and hormonal control of behavior and the genetic basis of behavior
- b. Optimal foraging behavior and predator-prey dynamics
- c. The behaviors associated with migration and territoriality
- d. The evolution of communication from perspectives of both signaler and receiver
- e. Reproductive behaviors, including differences in sex roles, mating systems, and care of offspring
- f. Social behaviors, such as altruism and reciprocity

Skills will be gained through:

- a. Lectures and discussion of papers from the primary literature
- b. Presentation and discussion of research articles throughout the course
- c. Preparation of an experiment for an area of behavior/organism/system of your choosing with through well-developed hypotheses, experimental design, expected results, and thorough literature review.
- d. Participation in laboratory exercises that explore topics from lecture that we will investigate in more detail.
- e. Communicate effectively about behavioral topics in both oral and written form, reinforced through data analysis and writing assignments throughout the course.

These course objectives are aimed to fulfill the VSU General Educational outcomes 3,4,5 and 7.

This course's set of learning objectives support the outcomes 1, 2 and 5 of [VSU Selected Educational Outcomes for the B.S. Degree in Biology](#)

Lecture & Lab Policies Guidelines for your safety and the safety of those around you.

1. No eating or drinking in the lecture or lab.
2. Use hand sanitizer when you enter, wash hands after the exercises for lab.
3. Know where emergency/first aid equipment

Grade Determination

Assessment	Points	Grading Scale:
Participation in Lab and Lecture	50	
Major Lab assignments: Passage Project Paper (75), Captivity Project poster ppt file (75), Poster peer review (30), Poster presentation (20)	200	≥ 900 pts, A 800-899, B
Discussion ppt/preparation (40), Discussion Presentation (30)	70	700-799, C
Exam 1,2,3, 4 (150pts each)	600	600-699, D
Laboratory Homework Assignments	80	<600 pts, F
Total Points	1000	

Participation: Points for participation will be given based on your preparedness and your contribution to the lecture, lab activities and paper discussions. This includes participating in the chat or poll sections of the lecture on BBcollaborate (if we move virtual) and also your level of

Course Policies

Title IX Statement

Valdosta State University (VSU) is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive work and learning environment free from discrimination and harassment. VSU is dedicated to creating an environment where all campus community members feel valued, respected, and included. Valdosta State University prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex (including sexual harassment and sexual violence), sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status, in the University's programs and activities as required by applicable laws and regulations such as Title IX. The individual designated with responsibility for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning discrimination policies is the University's Title IX Coordinator: the Director of the Office of Social Equity, titleix@valdosta.edu, 1208 N. Patterson St., Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia 31698, 229-333-5463.

Academic Integrity Statement

Cheating, plagiarism, copying and any other behavior contrary to University standards of behavior will not be tolerated. Academic Honesty Policies and Procedures Students caught violating any aspect of the Academic Integrity Code will be penalized in all cases. Penalty ranges from "0" on an assignment to "F" for the course without regard to a student's accumulated points. Students may also face expulsion. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the policies of the university regarding academic integrity and avoid violating such policies. By taking this course, you agree that all required course work may be subject to submission for a similarity review to Turnitin, a tool within BlazeVIEW. For more information on the use of Turnitin at VSU see Turnitin for Students.

Students with Disabilities

Students requiring classroom or testing accommodations because of documented disabilities should discuss their needs with the instructor at the beginning of the semester. If you need accommodations for an exam, you must communicate this information with at least 1 week before the exam. Students not registered must contact the Access Office in Farber Hall, Phone; 245-2498. Website: <http://www.valdosta.edu/access/>

Additional Academic Support

The Academic Support Center (ASC) offers all VSU students peer tutoring in core curriculum courses, including math, writing (any

the term). SOI responses are anonymous to instructors/administrators, and they will be able to access results only after they have submitted final grades. After final grade submission, instructors will not be able to see any responses, but they can see the percentage of students who have or have not completed their SOIs. While instructors will not be able to see student names, an automated system will send a reminder email to those who have yet to complete their SOIs. Students who withdraw or drop a course will also be sent invitations to complete the Open Course Survey. Complete information about the SOIs, including how to access the survey, is available on the [SOI Procedures webpage](#).

Spring 2022- Dr. Rose's Animal Behavior course (BIOL 4650/6650)

Note: The professor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus as necessary.

Week 1	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Tuesday 1/11</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Introductions & Syllabus -Chapter 1: The Science of Animal Behavior 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Thursday 1/13</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Chapter 2: Methods for Studying Animal Behavior -<u>Lab</u>: Ethograms Part I -Homework: collect data for next week's lab submit lab homework 1 via blazeview link
Week 2	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Tuesday 1/18</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Chapter 3 	

Week 8

Tuesday 3/1

-Exam 2

Thursday 3/3

- Chapter 5: Sensory Systems and Behavior
-Discussion 5

