

**ANSC 3315**  
**Behavior and Management of Domestic Animals**  
MWF 10-10:50am RAS 130

**Instructor:**

Dr. Rebecca K. Splan

RAS 105

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Office hours: Please email to schedule appointment

**Course Description:** A transdisciplinary study of animal behavior as related to the management and well-being of domestic livestock and captive animal species. Special emphasis will be placed on human-animal interactions, assessment and standards, and facility design. Prerequisite: ANSC 1419.

**Course Learning Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- 1) Recognize and discuss fundamental processes involved in development and control of behavior,
- 2) Demonstrate proficiency in behavioral observation and description,
- 3) Critically interpret scientific literature related to animal behavior, and
- 4) Analyze animal management scenarios using applied knowledge of animal behavior and welfare.

**Program Learning Outcomes, Department of Animal Science:**

Students will be able to:

- 1) Demonstrate the basic skills of analyzing and interpreting information gathered in a research setting,
- 2) Apply critical thinking skills to deal with potential challenges in diverse animal sciences and related industries, and,
- 3) Communicate through written, spoken, and graphical methods.

**Reference Textbooks (not required):**

*Principles & Applications of Domestic Animal Behavior* by EO Price (2008) CAB International.

*Domestic Animal Behaviour & Welfare, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition* by DA Broom and AF Fraser (2007) CAB International.

Additional required reading materials will be made available on Blackboard and/or distributed in class.

**Academic Integrity and Honesty:** The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of their classroom. The University may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. For more information, please see SRSU guidelines on Student Conduct and Discipline, found in the Student Handbook: [http://www.sulross.edu/sites/default/files//sites/default/files/users/docs/stulife/student\\_conduct\\_discipline.pdf](http://www.sulross.edu/sites/default/files//sites/default/files/users/docs/stulife/student_conduct_discipline.pdf)

**Accommodations:** Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartz, M. Ed., L.P.C., in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas. Telephone: 432-837-8691. E-mail: [mschwartz@sulross.edu](mailto:mschwartz@sulross.edu)

**Absence and Late Assignment Policy:**

It is expected that ALL assignments will be submitted on time. Without a valid absence, any assignment turned in up to 24 hr late will receive a -20% penalty, and a penalty of -40% for up to 48 hr late. Assignments turned in after 48 hr will NOT be accepted. Valid absences include 1) medical emergency (signed note from a medical doctor is required), 2) participation in a SRSU-sanctioned activity (a letter from the faculty advisor is required before the absence), or 3) other emergencies or conflicts that are allowed at Dr. Splan's discretion. Students are expected to make up missed work as quickly as possible.

**Assessment and Grading:**

Group Presentation (1 @ 40 pts)  
Behavior/Welfare Assessments (5 @ 15 pts each)  
Written Assignments (3 @ 20 pts each)  
Exams (3 @ 100 pts each)

Grading Scale:

A = 90-100% B = 80-89% C = 70-79% D = 60-69% F = below 60%

**Tentative Lecture Schedule:**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Topic</u></b>
Aug 22	Introduction, Why study animal behavior?
Aug 24	Describing behavior
Aug 26	Describing behavior
Aug 29	Experience and development ( <b>Behavior assessment</b> )
Aug 31	Experience and development
Sept 2	Learning
Sept 5	<b>LABOR DAY – no class</b>
Sept 7	Learning
Sept 9	Motivation ( <b>Behavior assessment</b> )
Sept 12	Motivation
Sept 14	Sensation and perception
Sept 16	Communication
Sept 19	<b>EXAM 1</b>
Sept 21	Feeding behavior
Sept 23	Feeding behavior
Sept 26 **	Social organization
Sept 28	Social organization
Sept 30	Reproductive and sexual behavior
Oct 3 **	Reproductive and sexual behavior
Oct 5	Maternal and neonatal behavior
Oct 7	Maternal and neonatal behavior
Oct 10 **	Aggression
Oct 12	Biological rhythms ( <b>Behavior assessment</b> )

Oct 14	Abnormal behavior
Oct 17	<b>EXAM 2</b>
Oct 19	Changing behavior through selection
Oct 21	Changing behavior through selection
Oct 24 **	What is welfare?
Oct 26	Using behavior to assess welfare
Oct 28	Using behavior to assess welfare
Oct 31 **	Animal handling and facility design - cattle
Nov 2	Animal handling and facility design - horses
Nov 4	Animal handling and facility design - pigs ( <b>Welfare assessment</b> )
Nov 7 **	Animal handling and facility design - poultry
Nov 9	Captive animal management
Nov 11	Captive animal management
Nov 14 **	Physiological indicators of animal welfare
Nov 16	Physiological indicators of animal welfare
Nov 18	Welfare standards in animal production ( <b>Welfare assessment</b> )
Nov 21 **	Welfare in research settings
Nov 23	<b>THANKSGIVING BREAK – no class</b>
Nov 25	<b>THANKSGIVING BREAK – no class</b>
Nov 28 **	Students' choice topic
Nov 30 **	Students' choice topic
Dec 2	<b>FINAL EXAM</b> (not cumulative) - 10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

\*\*Student presentation day