

Sul Ross State University  
ANSC 3315: Applied Animal Behavior and Welfare  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00-9:50 am (RAS 135)

Instructor:

Dr. Perse McCrae

Phone: 432-837-8205

Office: RAS 105

Email: [Persephone.mccrae@sulross.edu](mailto:Persephone.mccrae@sulross.edu)

Office hours: Monday & Wednesday 10:00-11:30 am or by appointment

Course description:

Transdisciplinary study of animal behavior as it relates to the management and well-being of domestic livestock and captive animal species. Special emphasis on human-animal interactions, assessment and standards, and facility design.

Prerequisite: ANSC 1419.

Course objectives:

1. Students will demonstrate knowledge of normal and abnormal behavior of animals.
2. Be able to discuss and assess animal behavior and welfare research.
3. Understand the role of humans in promoting normal behavior and a high-degree of welfare in domesticated animal species.

Marketable Skills for Department of Animal Science:

1. Knowledge of techniques and equipment for planting, growing, and harvesting food products (both plant and animal) for consumption, including storage/handling techniques.
2. Knowledge of plant and animal organisms, their tissues, cells, functions, interdependencies, and interactions with each other and the environment.
3. Understanding the implications of new information for both current and future problem solving and decision-making.
4. Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems.
5. Identifying complex problems and reviewing related information to develop and evaluate options and implement solutions. Communicating finding in both oral and written form at a level appropriate for the needs of the audience.

Departmental projected learning outcomes:

1. Demonstrate the basic skills of interpreting research data gathered in an agricultural context.
2. Apply critical thinking skills to mitigate potential challenges in diverse animal sciences and related agricultural industries.

Demonstrate the ability to communicate through written, spoken, and graphical methods.

Required text:

None.

Academic 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 visit:

[https://www.sulross.edu/sites/default/files/sites/default/files/users/docs/stulife/student\\_conduct\\_discipline.pdf](https://www.sulross.edu/sites/default/files/sites/default/files/users/docs/stulife/student_conduct_discipline.pdf)

### SRSU Library Services

The Sul Ross Library offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, [library.sulross.edu](http://library.sulross.edu). Off-campus access requires your LoboID and password. Check out materials using your photo ID. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email ([srsulibrary@sulross.edu](mailto:srsulibrary@sulross.edu)), or phone (432-837-8123).

### SRSU Disability Services:

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Rebecca Greathouse Wren, LPC-S, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203 (please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can during working hours), or email [rebecca.wren@sulross.edu](mailto:rebecca.wren@sulross.edu). Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

### Absence & late assignment policy:

It is expected that ALL assignments will be submitted on time. Valid absences include 1) medical emergencies with signed note from a doctor, 2) participation in a SRSU-sanctioned activity with a letter from faculty advisor, or 3) other emergencies or conflicts that are allowed at the professor's discretion. Students are expected to make up missed work within a week of original due date. **Late assignments will be accepted for 4 days following the initial due date and time with a 20% penalty per day late.**

### Exams:

There will be two exams administered in class throughout the semester. The dates of the exams are noted on the syllabus. **There will be no make-up exams or quizzes without prior approval or a valid doctor's excuse. You must talk to me "live". Voice or email messages are not considered valid excuses.**

### Assignments:

#### ***Critical article review: 150 pts***

You will choose a primary scientific paper (NOT a review paper or brief communication) published in a peer-reviewed journal on a topic within the field of animal behavior and welfare (sign up required). Submission includes a two-page paper (12 pt. Times New Roman font, double spaced) explaining what the goal of the study was, how the authors conducted the research, what their results indicate and a critical review on how the research was carried out and interpreted. See rubric for all details. Due: variable, see class schedule.

#### ***Journal club leader: 150 pts***

You will present your findings from the critical article review during class in a "journal club" type setting. You will have 15 minutes to summarize the journal article (based on your written assignment). You will then lead the class in discussion on that article. You are expected to know the ins and outs of the paper and come prepared with questions for the class. See rubric for all details. Due: variable, see class schedule.

#### ***Participation: 100 pts***

You are expected to participate in lectures and journal clubs, including offering insights, asking questions, and participating in discussion. The journal clubs are an integral part of this course and failing to participate them will negatively impact your overall grade.

#### ***Final paper: 300 pts***

You will choose a standard procedure in the management of a domestic or exotic species (e.g. tail docking, the use of farrowing crates, tiger zoo enclosures, etc). The chosen topic **MUST BE APPROVED**. Submission includes a four-page paper (12 pt. Times New Roman font, double spaced) that outlines the management technique, why it is conducted, the impact of the procedure on the animal (drawing on what you have learned in terms of animal behavior and welfare), potential alterations or alternatives to this practice **AND** how this can positively affect the species. See rubric for all details. Due December 4<sup>th</sup> by midnight.

Points available:

Assignment	Points
Exams (150 points each X 2)	300 pts
Critical article review	150 pts
Journal club leader	150 pts
Participation	100 pts
Final paper	300 pts
Total	1000 pts

Grading scale:

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = below 60%

Tentative lecture schedule:

*\*This information should be treated as an outline – there may be alterations in sequence of topics.*

Date	Topic
August 24	Introduction
August 26	Behavior research
August 28	Behavior research
August 31	Motivation
September 2	Motivation
September 4	<b>Motivation journal club</b>
September 7	<b>NO CLASS: LABOR DAY</b>
September 9	Emotions
September 11	Emotions
September 14	<b>Emotions journal club</b>
September 16	Learning
September 18	Learning
September 21	<b>Learning journal club</b>
September 23	Intelligence
September 25	Intelligence
September 28	<b>Intelligence journal club</b>
September 30	<b>EXAM 1</b>
October 2	Development
October 5	Development
October 7	Development

October 9	<b>Development journal club</b>
October 12	Development II
October 14	Development II
October 16	<b>Development II journal club</b>
October 19	Stereotypies
October 21	Stereotypies
October 23	Stereotypies
October 26	<b>Stereotypies journal club</b>
October 28	Enrichment
October 30	Enrichment
November 2	<b>Enrichment journal club</b>
November 4	Sexual behavior
November 6	Sexual behavior
November 9	<b>Sexual behavior journal club</b>
November 11	<b>NO CLASS: VETERANS DAY</b>
November 13	Pain & sickness behavior
November 16	Pain & sickness behavior
November 18	Flex day/review
November 20	Review
November 23	<b>EXAM 2</b>
November 25	<b>NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING</b>
November 27	<b>NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING</b>
November 30	<b>BEGIN ONLINE LEARNING</b>
December 2	
December 4	<b>Final paper due by midnight</b>
December 6	