

Sul Ross State University
ANSC 3315: Applied Animal Behavior and Welfare

Instructor:

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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

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. 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), 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. 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.

SRSU Distance Education Statement

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook.

Library Information

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library in Alpine 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. Off-campus access requires logging in with your LoboID and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or phone (432-837-8123).

Academic Integrity Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. A scholar is expected to be punctual, prepared, and focused; meaningful and pertinent participation is appreciated. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to: Turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden.

Classroom Climate of Respect

Importantly, this class will foster free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas. This means that all of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment, or personal attack. No one is entitled to harass, belittle, or discriminate against another on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. Still we will not be silenced by the difficulty of fruitfully discussing politically sensitive issues.

Diversity Statement

I aim to create a learning environment for my students that supports a diversity of thoughts, perspectives and experiences, and honors your identities (including race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability, socioeconomic class, age, nationality, etc.). I also understand that the crisis of COVID, economic disparity, and health concerns, or even unexpected life events could impact the conditions necessary for you to succeed. My commitment is to be there for you and help you meet the learning objectives of this course. I do this to demonstrate my commitment to

you and to the mission of Sul Ross State University to create an inclusive environment and care for the whole student as part of the Sul Ross Familia. If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don't hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you.

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 4th 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 30	Behavior research
August 31	Motivation
September 1	Motivation
September 3	Motivation journal club
September 6	NO CLASS: LABOR DAY
September 7	Emotions
September 8	Emotions
September 10	Emotions journal club
September 15	Learning
September 17	Learning
September 21	Learning journal club
September 23	Intelligence
September 27	Intelligence
September 30	Intelligence journal club
October 4	EXAM 1
October 5	Development
October 7	Development
October 11	Development

October 18	Development journal club
October 20	Development II
October 22	Development II
October 25	Development II journal club
October 27	Stereotypies
October 29	Stereotypies
November 1	Stereotypies
November 3	Sexual behavior
November 5	Sexual behavior
November 8	Sexual behavior journal club
November 10	NO CLASS: VETERANS DAY
November 12	Pain & sickness behavior
November 15	Pain & sickness behavior
November 17	Flex day/review
November 19	Review
November 22	EXAM 2
November 25	NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING
November 27	NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING
November 29	Make-Up Day
December 1	Make- Up Day
December 3	Final paper due by midnight
December 6	