

# Animal Behavior

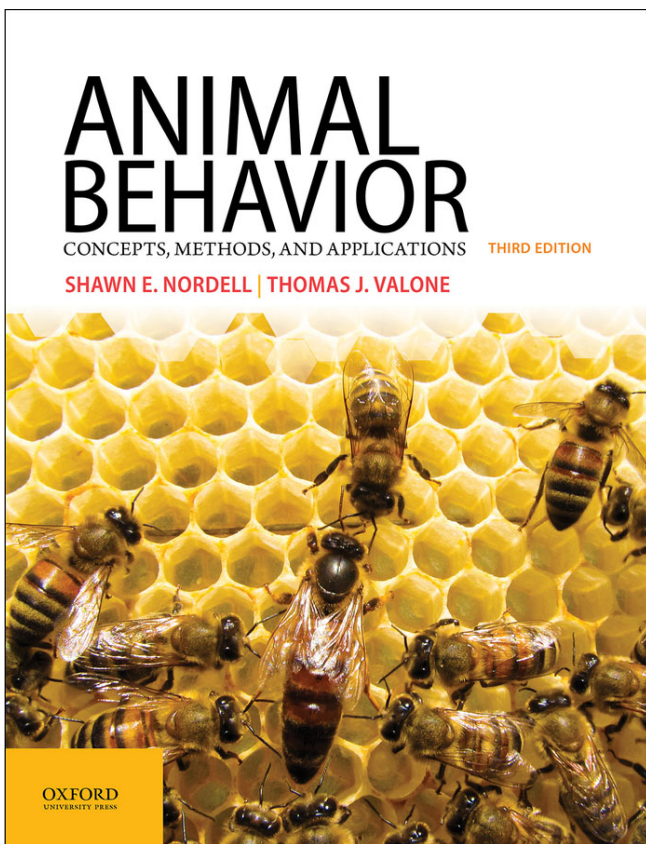
*Biology 3307*

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or by appointment

## Course Materials

Animal Behavior  
Concepts, Methods, and Applications, 3rd edition  
Shawn E. Nordell & Thomas J. Valone



### ISBN's:

9780190924232

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## **Overview**

This class focuses on the main conceptual underpinnings of Animal Behavior. In the first part of the class we will review classical ethology, which focuses on “how” animals behave the way they do. In the second part of the class we will focus on more recent developments in behavioral ecology, which focuses on “why” animals behave the way they do.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

The graduating biology student graduating with a BS in Biology should be able to:

- SLO1 The student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of basic biological concepts, including but not limited to evolution via natural selection, cell theory, and the role and function of DNA.
- SLO2 The student will be able to demonstrate utilization of various field techniques toward addressing scientific questions in the specific discipline. These field techniques can include, but are not limited to, plant collection and processing, various animal collection techniques, ecological surveying and sampling, and biodiversity indexing.
- SLO3 The student will be able to use biological instrumentation to solve biological problems using standard observational strategies.
- SLO4 The student will develop writing skills by summarizing and critiquing recent relevant biological literature.

### **Marketable Skills**

A student getting a degree in the Biological sciences would be expected to acquire the following marketable skills by graduation.

- 1) Students will be able to organize, analyze, and interpret data.
- 2) Students will be proficient at using presentation software.
- 3) Students will acquire experience in managing time and meeting deadlines.
- 4) Students will gain the ability to speak effectively and write concisely about scientific topics.
- 5) Students will acquire experience and guidance in the development of professional email correspondence.

### **Course Learning Objectives**

Upon completion of a course in Animal Behavior, students are expected to have a thorough understanding of:

- The student will understand the important organizing principles in the field of animal behavior. This will be accomplished mainly through assigned readings, class material, assignments and discussions.
- The student will be able to use the scientific method to evaluate hypotheses. This will be accomplished by your reading of the critical papers from the primary literature.
- The student will develop communication skills. This will be accomplished through writing assignments and online discussions.

## Test Information

All exams will be administered using Blackboard. All assignments, exams, etc. will be taken on-line using the Sul Ross State University Blackboard system. Students **must** note that all assignments and exams **must** be completed in the announced period of time. Excuses for missed exams or other assignments will **not** be accepted. If a student misses an exam for "any reason," that student will be required to take a make-up exam at a later scheduled time. It is highly recommended that you complete all graded assignments using SRSU computer labs located at each campus site. These computer labs are faster and more reliable than most home connections. Each student is responsible for completing the material on time. **Excuses will not be accepted! If your home computer and/or your internet service disconnects or fails, I will not accept that as an excuse. All graded assignments will be on a time period.**

- Exam 1: February 3, 2022 - Chapters 1, 2, 3
- Exam 2: March 3, 2022 - Chapters 6, 7, 8
- Exam 3: April 5, 2022 - Chapters 9, 10, 11; papers & web sites
- Exam 4: May 3, 2022 - Chapters 12, 13, 14; papers & web sites

Quizzes and Exams will consist of a variety of multiple choice, true false, matching, and/or short answer questions. All exams/quizzes will have a time limit. Students who exceed this time limit will have points deducted from their exams results. Deductions are as follows: 0-59 seconds = 2 points; 1-2 minutes = 4 points; 2-3 minutes = 6 points; 3-4 minutes = 8 points; 4-5 minutes = 10 points; etc.

## Grading Policies

Your grade will be determined as follows:

### **Exams 1 - 4:**

- 100 points each = 400 points

### **Discussion participation:**

- 15 weekly discussion questions at 20 points each = 300 points
- 4 paper reviews at 25 points each = 100 points

Therefore, there are a total of 800 possible points and your letter grade will be assigned accordingly.

**A** = 800-720

**B** = 719-640

**C** = 639-560

**D** = 559-480

**F** = 479-0

### **Study Tips:**

Everyone has their own unique way of learning. How you study rather than how long you study will have a huge impact on your grade in this course. If you use all the resources available to you and take an active role in the learning process you will likely do much better.

Some specific tips are:

- Spend 20 – 30 minutes to skim through each reading assignment before class.
- Review the lecture notes and read the assigned reading
- Try to draw diagrams from lecture and the book from memory

- Make flash cards or important concepts and terms
- Call up a friend and try to explain what you have learned in class
- **ASK QUESTIONS!** You are not in this class alone, if you don't understand something, more than likely your classmates also don't understand.

### **Academic Honesty:**

Cheating will not be tolerated. The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. "Cheating" includes, but is not limited to:

- Copying from another student's test paper, a laboratory report, other report, or computer files, data listings, and/or programs.
- Using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test.
- Collaborating, without authorization, with another person during an examination or in preparing academic work.
- Knowingly, and without authorization, using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, soliciting, copying, or possessing, in whole or in part, the contents of an unadministered test.
- Substituting for another student; permitting any other person; or otherwise assisting any other person to substitute for oneself or for another student in the taking of an examination or test or the preparation of academic work to be submitted for academic credit.
- Bribing another person to obtain an unadministered test or information about an unadministered test.
- Purchasing, or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one's own work any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm. This section does not apply to the typing of the rough and/or final versions of an assignment by a professional typist.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. "Plagiarism" means the appropriation and the unacknowledged incorporation of another's work or idea into one's own work offered for credit. This includes verbatim written answers by colleagues with whom you might discuss laboratories exercises. Plagiarism also includes copying information from internet resources. To avoid plagiarism, make sure you always use your own words to construct your written answers.

***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.

***SRSU Distance Education Statement.*** Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as Smarthinking, 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 information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. 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.

**Technical Support.** SRSU 24/7 Blackboard Technical Support: Toll Free: 888.837.6055.  
Email: [blackboardsupport@sulross.edu](mailto:blackboardsupport@sulross.edu)

**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).

Tentative Lecture Schedule:

(note: exact dates are subject to change, be sure to keep abreast of changes).

Week	Reading assignment
Week 1:	
Tuesday, January 11.....	Introduction, syllabus, Chapter 1: The Science of Animal Behavior
Thursday, January 13 .....	Chapter 1: The Science of Animal Behavior
Week 2:	
Tuesday, January 18.....	Chapter 2: Methods for Studying Animal Behavior
Thursday, January 20 .....	Chapter 2: Methods for Studying Animal Behavior
Week 3:	
Tuesday, January 25.....	Chapter 3: Evolution and the Study of Animal Behavior
Thursday, January 27 .....	Chapter 3: Evolution and the Study of Animal Behavior
Week 4:	
Tuesday, February 1.....	Catch up; review
<b>Thursday, February 3.....</b>	<b>Exam 1 (Chapters 1, 2 &amp; 3)</b>
Week 5:	
Tuesday, February 8.....	Chapter 6: Communication
Thursday, February 10.....	Chapter 6: Communication
Week 6:	
Tuesday, February 15.....	Chapter 7: Learning, Neuroethology, and Cognition
Thursday, February 17.....	Chapter 7: Learning, Neuroethology, and Cognition
Week 7:	
Tuesday, February 22.....	Chapter 8: Foraging Behavior
Thursday, February 24.....	Chapter 8: Foraging Behavior
Week 8:	
Tuesday, March 1 .....	Catch up; review
<b>Thursday, March 3 .....</b>	<b>Exam 2 (Chapters 6, 7 &amp; 8)</b>
Week 9:	
Tuesday, March 8 .....	<i>Spring Break---No Classes</i>
Thursday, March 10 .....	<i>Spring Break---No Classes</i>
Week 10:	
Tuesday, March 15 .....	Chapter 9: Antipredator Behavior
Thursday, March 17 .....	Chapter 9: Antipredator Behavior
Week 11:	
Tuesday, March 22 .....	Chapter 10: Dispersal and Migration
Thursday, March 24 .....	Chapter 10: Dispersal and Migration
Week 12:	
Tuesday, March 29 .....	Chapter 11: Habitat Selection, Territoriality, and Aggression
Thursday, March 31 .....	Chapter 11: Habitat Selection, Territoriality, and Aggression
Week 13:	
<b>Tuesday, April 5 .....</b>	<b>Exam 3 (Chapter 9, 10 &amp; 11)</b>
Thursday, April 7.....	Chapter 12: Mating Behavior
Week 14:	
Tuesday, April 12.....	Chapter 12: Mating Behavior
Thursday, April 14.....	Chapter 13: Mating Systems
Week 15:	
Tuesday, April 19.....	Chapter 13: Mating Systems
Thursday, April 21.....	Chapter 14: Parental Care
Week 16:	
Tuesday, April 26.....	Chapter 14: Parental Care
Week 17:	
<b>Tuesday, May 3 .....</b>	<b>Exam 4 (Chapter 12, 13 &amp; 14)</b>