

**Behavior Analysis on the Wild Side: Animal Applications**  
**EAB4930: Advanced Seminar in Behavior Analysis**  
**Instructor: Dr. Christy Alligood**  
**Credits: 3**

Class Number 22008| Canvas Online

Professor: Christina Alligood,  
Ph.D., BCBA-D

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Welcome to the Course!

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### Course Description

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Have you ever wondered how zookeepers conduct a physical examination of a crocodile, or move a venomous snake from one area to another, or weigh a giraffe? This course is designed for students interested in the application of the science of learning to the behavior of animals. The course will examine applications with domestic, exotic, and wild animals.

This course is a fully on-line course with no specified meeting times. However, the course is not self-paced. Each week, new course modules will open that reflect the material we will cover during that week. For each module you will be given an overview of the scheduled activities so that you will know what you are expected to do that week. This is an advanced seminar course, so your aim should be to engage with the course materials and then to participate in meaningful discussions and analysis through the course activities. We will have one quiz to check your understanding of the syllabus. For the remainder of the course, your engagement with the material will be assessed through discussions (both asking and responding to questions about the material) and targeted writing. Each week you will find links to where you will access reading materials and videos, post in discussions, and develop your portfolio. You will need to complete all weekly activities by the due dates listed in Canvas.

Follow this link to access the Canvas login page: (<https://lss.at.ufl.edu>).

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### Course Requirements

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Computer/internet access to Canvas is required for this course.

You are responsible for maintaining access to Canvas.

- Extensions will not be given for student-based technical difficulties. Do not wait until the last minute to complete assignments!
- If UF Canvas experiences technical difficulties, deadlines will be adjusted to allow for completion of assignments.

Course Components:

- A Getting Started quiz will assess your understanding of the syllabus.
- Discussions will allow you to interact with your fellow students and help you understand the readings.
- Portfolio assignments will help you to apply and think critically about concepts in the course.
- Video examples and audio Q&As: Most weeks you will have the opportunity to watch one or more videos explaining and/or demonstrating the week's topic, and to listen to a Q&A with an expert in that week's topic, who will tell us about their work and answer questions.
- Optional: Each week you will have an opportunity to provide feedback to me on your experience in the course that week via a short survey. You will find a link to the survey at the end of each module.

Grade Breakdown:

1 Getting Started Quiz – worth 10 points

a. Getting started. By the date specified on the quiz, you need to complete the Getting Started quiz: By completing this quiz, you agree to all rules of the course. This quiz also assesses your knowledge of the syllabus, course requirements, etc. We need everyone on the same page regarding course policies, requirements, and such.

2. Discussions - worth 290 points

a. 15 Discussion forums:

1. Getting Started: Follow the instructions to post in the Introductions forum. This is worth 10 points.

2. Modules 1 and 2: You will need to respond to each of the two discussion questions related to the module's reading and videos. Be sure to follow the discussion post rubric. Your two responses are worth 10 points each, for a total of 20 points.
  3. Modules 3-14: You will need to write two discussion questions based on the module's reading and videos. Then respond to one discussion question posted by another student. Be sure to follow the discussion question and discussion post rubrics. Your two questions are worth 5 points each, and your response is worth 10 points, for a total of 20 points.
- b. Instructions for Discussion Questions:
  - c. Discussion forums will open Mondays at 9:00 am. Your discussion questions (Modules 3-14) are due by Thursday at 7:00 pm. Your response post (all Modules) is due by Sunday at 7:00 pm.
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4. Portfolio Assignments – worth 180 points
    - a. You will complete 6 portfolio assignments this term. These are targeted writing assignments designed to allow you to apply and think critically about some of the concepts in the course. They are worth 20 points each.
  
    - b. Your final portfolio assignment will pull together what you have learned in the previous portfolio assignments and help you to think about the big picture of the course topics. It is worth 60 points.

## Calculation of Final Letter Grades:

| Grade    | %           |
|----------|-------------|
| A        | 94% – 100%  |
| A -      | 90% – 93.9% |
| B +      | 87% – 89.9% |
| B        | 83% – 86.9% |
| B -      | 80% – 82.9% |
| C +      | 77% – 79.9% |
| C        | 73% – 76.9% |
| C -      | 70% – 72.9% |
| D +      | 67% – 69.9% |
| D        | 63% – 66.9% |
| D -      | 60% – 62.9% |
| E (Fail) | < 59.9%     |

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## Grading Policies

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### Late Assignments

Nope. Being that you have basically a week to complete each assignment, assignments cannot be made up for any reason outside of a university accepted excuse. Forgetting to check Canvas, internet connectivity issues, waiting until the last minute, etc., are obviously not accepted excuses.

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## Frequently Asked Questions

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1. “How long will it take for you to reply to a Canvas message?”
  - a. 24 hours during the week or 72 hours on the weekend. It may be faster, but this would be a conservative estimation. Remember, I am not magical. I cannot reply instantaneously. Please DO NOT send a message right before an assignment is due, you will most likely not get a response in time to be of help.
  
2. “I have an 93.8 in the course. Will you round it to an A?”
  - a. Nay. My hands are tied, folks. I don’t give grades, I simply issue the grades that are earned. When it comes to this, I am nothing but a glorified calculator. The good news is the grade you earn is the grade you will get. You can all get an A, and that would be great. The bad news is the grade you earn is the grade you get. Even if you are a few tenths away from the next grade up, you will not be rounded up.

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## Course Policies and Guidelines

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1. If you have a general question about the course, you should post it on the F.A.Q. discussion board. If it is something you would raise your hand to ask in class, it belongs on this board. Feel free to use this board to communication with each other, set up study groups if you like, etc. I encourage you to talk to each other here and answer each other’s questions as you would if this were an in-person course.
  
2. If you have a question about your grade or other issues not appropriate for the FAQ board, you should message me. Don’t post information about your grade on the FAQ board.
  
3. All interactions with instructors and among class members are

expected to be professional and appropriate.

4. Extensions. Extension of deadlines may be requested for assignments. Any requests for an extension must be based on University approved reasons and must include proper documentation as per University guidelines. Requests for extensions must be made before the assignment deadline, if possible, or within 24 hours of the deadline for unexpected emergencies. Late assignments without approved extensions will not be accepted.
5. Announcements. Announcements will be made periodically about class issues (such as reminders about upcoming assignments, or when assignments are returned). These will be visible on our course's home page. Students are responsible for all announcements made there.
6. This course adheres to all University Policies. See <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/> for useful information at the Dean of Students Office webpage.
7. Academic Honesty. This course uses the definitions and guidelines for academic honesty as described by the Dean of Students Office. The following is text that is required in every course syllabus regarding academic honesty:

“Cheating is defined in the UF Handbook, and it is the student’s responsibility to be familiar with its many forms (including plagiarism). If a student is caught cheating, the first offense will result in a zero for that exam or assignment and a record of the event will be placed in a temporary file with the Office of Student Affairs. The second offense will result in an ‘E’ for the course, and the student will go before the Honor Court. As a result of completing registration at UF, every student has agreed to the following statement: *I understand that UF expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.*”

8. Getting Help: For issues with technical difficulties with Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at: [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu) or (352) 392-HELP - select option 2 or their website at <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.
9. Students with disabilities requesting accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. See <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/> for details.
10. Religious Observances Please check your calendars against the course syllabus. If you have a conflict due to religious observance you should contact me as soon as possible so that we can make any necessary arrangements.
11. Syllabus Change Policy Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.

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## Module Topics

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1. History of Animal Behavior Management
2. Basic and Complex Behavior
3. Pet Training
4. Animal Shelters
5. Horse Training
6. Behavioral Husbandry I: Training
7. Putting It Together
8. Behavioral Husbandry II: Enrichment
9. Behavioral Husbandry III: Problem Solving
10. Animal Helpers: Service Dogs
11. Animal Helpers: Hero Rats
12. Animal Helpers: Law Enforcement and Military
13. Wildlife Conservation
14. Putting it All Together