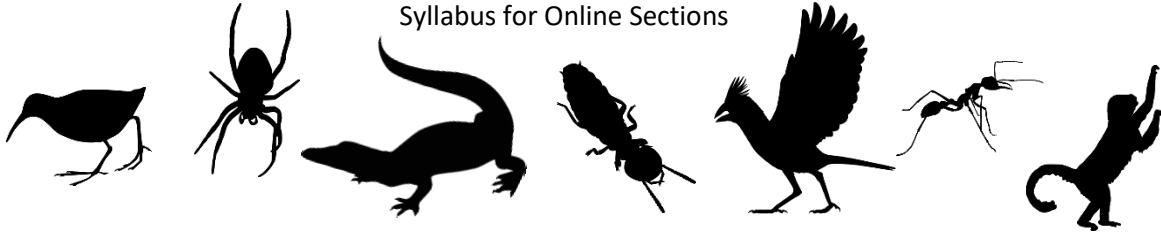


Syllabus for Online Sections

**Class Meetings**

The entire course will be conducted online through the course Canvas website. You can directly access the Canvas login at <https://elearning.ufl.edu/>

Course Description and Prerequisites

The scientific study of the mechanistic and evolutionary causes of animal behavior, including communication, foraging and anti-predator behavior, spatial behavior, mating behavior, parental care, and social behaviors. 3 credits.

Prerequisites: BSC 2010/2011 and labs, or the equivalent, with a minimum grade of "C". PCB 4674 is suggested (previously or concurrently) but not required.

Instructor: Nick Keiser, PhD.

Dr. Keiser is a behavioral ecologist who studies animal sociality and infectious disease. His research focuses on consistent individual differences in animal behavior ("animal personalities") and how the mixture of different behavioral types in social groups influences disease outbreaks. His lab works on many test systems like spiders, fruit flies, ants, mites, and more.

Contact information:

Email: ckeiser@ufl.edu

Phone: 352-273-4981

Office Hours: As this is an online course, office hours are digital and can be conducted over Skype, Google Hangouts, or Zoom. If you would like to meet in person, please make an appointment.

Course Goals and Objectives

This course is designed to incorporate the student-centered pedagogy known as Problem-based learning (PBL). This is an approach in which students learn about a subject by working in groups to solve open-ended problems. Students will learn about core Animal Behavior theories and apply them to different case studies. PBL will be employed in small Module-specific assignments as well as larger, longer-term groups.

The course focuses on the comparative evolutionary and biological study of animal behavior. You will study non-human and human animal behavior in an evolutionary framework. We will consider each behavior from the perspective of genetics, phylogeny, development, neurology, endocrinology, and learning. How do those processes influence behavior? You will accomplish this with readings, discussions, and writing assignments.

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Distinguish between the four types of questions that may be asked about animal behavior, and formulate hypotheses of each type to explain a given behavior.
- Explain how behavioral hypotheses are formulated, the procedures used to test them, and the types of data that can be collected.
- Understand some of the mechanisms underlying animal behavior.
- Understand the role of natural and sexual selection in the evolution of behavior.

E-mail Communication

All e-mail correspondence to the instructor must originate from your ufl.edu account, include your full name in the body of the e-mail, and contain the course number in the subject line. E-mails not meeting these requirements may not be recognized by our e-mail filters, and thus may not be answered.

Course Resources

Textbook:

Animal Behavior: Concepts, Methods, and Applications, 2e by Shawn E. Nordell & Thomas J. Valone. Oxford University Press (publisher), 2016.

A copy of this textbook is on reserve at the Marston Science Library. We will have additional readings as well, distributed via Canvas.

Course Website (e-Learning):

Class material including the syllabus, discussion readings, problem sets, exam results, some lecture slides, and other information related to the course will be posted on the course e-Learning website (<http://lss.at.ufl.edu>). The course is found under “e-Learning in Canvas”. You are responsible for receiving all Announcements made in lecture and/or posted on the course website for this class. For help with e-Learning, call the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357, or visit the e-Learning support website: <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

Online Instruction Information

Students are required to complete online assignments. A schedule will be posted on e-Learning with the due dates for each assignment. All assignments must be completed by the stated due date and time for full credit. Many assignments will also have a set time limit, so make sure you have time to devote to that assignment before you begin. You are expected to work by yourself on the assignments and cheating will not be tolerated. Note that all due dates for assignments are clearly posted on course website and reflect the most up-to-date information.

Assessments and Grading

There are several types of assignments in this course. For most assignments, you will receive a grade based on rubric provided. Late assignments will be graded at half credit. Once assigned, assignments are available online at all times up until the deadlines. Because they are assigned well ahead of time, documentation of illness or a serious personal matter must be provided for at least five of the seven days of the week of the assignment’s deadline for any accommodations to be made. This documentation

must go through the Dean of Students Instructor Notifications page (<https://care.dso.ufl.edu/instructor-notifications/>). It is especially important not to wait until just before the deadlines to complete assignments. A technical problem occurring just before the deadline is not a valid excuse for not completing the assignment. If there is a technical problem with accessing the website or a particular assignment within Canvas, you must contact eLearning technical support first (and then me) at least 48 hours prior to the deadline, so appropriate steps can be taken to fix the issue and extensions can be given if necessary. Thus, check early that you can access the assignments. You will not be granted an extension for technical problems if you do not contact me before the deadline. It is your responsibility to have and maintain all the equipment and services necessary to participate in an online course.

Repeated for emphasis: technical problems must be reported to me at least 48 hours prior to the submission deadline, no exceptions!

Any assignments that require a file upload MUST be uploaded in PDF format.

Exams

There will be two exams. Each exam will cover material from video lectures, comprehension checks, learning activities, online discussions, and assigned readings in the textbook. The exams will not be “formally cumulative”, though by the end of the class you will be expected to link components you learned early on to ideas and themes covered in the final unit. All exams will feature a variety of short-answer questions. We will not shy away from mathematical concepts in the evolution of animal behavior, but you will not be expected to memorize equations or constants, nor will you have to perform complicated math.

All exams will be essay style and will be administered using ProctorU. Each exam will have roughly 15 short essay-style questions; you will be responsible for answering any 10 of them that you choose. Each student must make an appointment to take the exam during the week of the scheduled exam. DO NOT WAIT to sign up for your exam dates/times. The earlier you sign up, the better chance you will have to get your desired testing time. ProctorU does charge additional fees for late sign ups. For detailed instructions on how to sign up for exams and about Proctor U go to the “Proctor U” tab in the “Start here” section on the course website.

Exams will be available for review one week after the exam has been graded. Exams will not be available for review after the semester has ended.

Exam Re-grades: Occasionally, mistakes are made when your exams are graded. If you feel there is an error, you can request a re-grade. Re-grade requests must be in writing and will not be done on the spot. Questions about exam scores will NOT be answered the day that they are posted. When asking for a re-grade, you need to include the following (if you do not follow these rules your exam will be returned without review):

1. An email explaining what needs to be re-graded, specifically, explaining why your answer deserves more credit than was given.
2. Re-grade requests must be turned in within the week of when the exam was handed back. They will be returned to you one week later.

Exam Extra Credit: All students will be able to correct their FIRST exam and submit their new answers to earn half-credit on any points missed, for a maximum of 10 points (i.e., you can in theory raise your exam grade one full letter). For instance, if you missed a 4-point short answer, submit a correction to earn up to 2 points. If you were awarded 2 out of 8 points (6 missed points), correct it to earn up to 3 points. This extra credit is available to all students, no matter their original score. You cannot answer questions you did not attempt. Exam corrections are due two weeks after I pass the exams back in class, and applies to the first exam only.

Make-up Exams: No make-up exams will be given without prior permission or documentation of illness. Students that will be missing an exam due to a pre-arranged university-approved excused absence (sports, etc.) should let me know a minimum of two weeks in advance. These students may be required to take the make-up exam before the scheduled in-class exam.

In case of illness on exam day, a letter from the student's primary care provider is required. This letter must state that the student was unable to complete the exam on the scheduled date. A personal matter requires a note from the Dean of Students (P202 Peabody Hall). These notes must be received within five business days after the exam. Make up exams may be short-answer or essay format.

Comprehension checks

Each module will contain one comprehension check per chapter. These checks are based on the readings in the book. You will then answer questions by taking a quiz in Canvas. You will have TWO chances to complete the quiz. Your final quiz grade will be the HIGHEST score from the two quiz submissions.

Group Study Questions

For each Module, group study questions (1 to 2) will be assigned on Canvas. The questions are essay-style, and are designed as an incentive to keep yourself up-to-date, and to help you familiarize important concepts before they appear on exams. These questions will require you to participate in a group discussion and submit a summary answer as a group. You will be graded on the quality of your participation, and the accuracy of the response. An answer will be provided after the due date to aid you in your studying for the exams.

Projects

There are two scaffolded project assignments, *Create Your Own Ethogram* and *Community Science Project*. Both require Peer Review at different steps during the process. More details are available on Canvas.

Research Paper

This paper will be a two-page, single-spaced research proposal paper on a topic related to animal behavior. More information is available on the course Canvas website.

Individual Assignments

Throughout the semester, there are videos and activities that you will need to complete individually. The videos are interactive and will require you to answer questions as you proceed. The activities will require you to answer questions in Canvas after you work through a digital resource. Each assignment has its own grading rubric. Rubrics for each activity are available in their module section. It is advisable to look at the rubrics prior to submitting your assignment to make sure you have included all of the required information for the assignment.

Grading Summary:
Exams: 40% (two exams, 20% each)
Comprehension checks: 12.5%
Group Study Questions: 12.5 %
Projects: 12.5%
Research Paper: 12.5%
Individual Assignments: 10%

Letter Grades
A 90% - 100%
B 80% - 89.9%
C 70% - 79.9%
D 60% - 69.9%
F < 60%

Assignment totals are subject to change at the instructor’s discretion. All grades will be posted on e-Learning, and it is the responsibility of the student to check their grades on e-Learning to make sure they are accurate. **If there is a discrepancy, you must let me know within one week of the grade being posted on e-Learning.**

Note that the current UF policy for assigning grade points is available at the following undergraduate catalog web page: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

Drop/Add/Withdrawal

A student can drop/add during the drop add period with no penalty. After drop/add, a student who drops will receive a W until the date listed in the academic calendar. After that date, the student may be assigned an “E” (fail). Note: it is the responsibility of the STUDENT to withdraw from a course, not the instructor. Failure to participate/complete the class is NOT a drop.

Computing Requirements

It is the responsibility of the student to maintain a functioning computing system and internet connection that can meet the minimum requirements of the course. These requirements can be found in the Orientation Module in Canvas. Computing/internet connectivity issues will NOT be acceptable excuses for missed deadlines unless they are brought to my attention at least 48 hours prior to the deadline and accompanied by the ticket number from technical support. See Resources for Technical Support contact information. Microsoft Office programs are required for many of the assignments; it can be accessed by current UF students through GatorCloud.

Academic Honesty

All students registered at the University of Florida have agreed to comply with the following statement:

“I understand that the University of Florida 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.”

In addition, on all work submitted for credit the following pledge is either required or implied:

“On my honor I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

If you witness any instances of academic dishonesty in this class, please notify me or contact the Student Honor Court (392-1631) or Cheating Hotline (392-6999). You are expected to review and abide by the University of Florida Academic Honesty Guidelines at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/student-honor-code.aspx#honesty>.

Cheating, including plagiarism will result in consequences which may range from a 0 on the assignment to a failing grade for the entire course. Sanctions for cheating may be applied in a retroactive manner.

Attendance

Students are expected to check the course website regularly for announcements, assignment due dates, and other course related information. Students are to complete all assigned work (quizzes, activities, discussions, and exams) by the due date. Students are strongly encouraged to read the assigned chapters before attempting any of the assignments as this will make it easier to comprehend the material.

Time Commitment

The UF College of Liberal Arts and Sciences assumes that each student will devote 3-4 hours per week per credit hour to each course, including time in lectures and labs. Because ZOO 4926 is 3 credits, each student should therefore expect to devote 9-12 hours per week to this course during a regular semester, or 11-15 hours per week during the summer. A recommended time allocation is to the right.

If you find yourself spending more than the recommended number of hours per week on average on these activities, discuss this with me to see if you can refine your study habits.

Activity	Hours/Weeks
Lectures/Videos	1
Online Exercises	2-4
Textbook Readings	2-3
Review and Study	2-4

Conduct in Class

Please review the “Netiquette guide” for online courses in the “Start Here” section on the course website.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students who will require a classroom accommodation for a disability must contact the Dean of Students Office of Disability Resources, in Peabody 202 (phone: 352-392-1261). Please see the University of Florida Disability Resources website for more information at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>. Note that the student should provide documentation of a requirement for accommodation by the second week of classes. No accommodations are available to students who lack this documentation, and accommodations are not retroactive. It is the policy of the University of Florida that the student, not the instructor, is responsible for arranging accommodations when needed. Once notification is complete, the Dean of Students Office of Disability Resources will work with the instructor to accommodate the student.

Counseling Center and University Support Services

College can be a very stressful time in a person’s life. Resources are available on campus to help students meet academic goals and solve personal struggles which may interfere with their academic performance.

If you find that you are having difficulty emotionally or academically, there is substantial support available. See “A Self Help Guide for Students” or contact one of the following services:

- UF Counseling and Wellness Center, Radio Rd Facility, 392-1575
- Dean of Students Office, 202 Peabody Hall, 392-1261
- Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601
- CLAS Academic Advising Center, Farrior Hall, 100 Fletcher Drive, 392-1521
- UF Field and Fork Pantry, 564 Newell Dr., 294-3601

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students (202 Peabody Hall, 392-1261) for support. Furthermore, please notify your instructor if you are comfortable doing so. This will enable me to provide any further resources.

Course Evaluation

Anonymous course evaluations will be open via UF’s online evaluations system near the end of the semester (<https://evaluations.ufl.edu>). You will receive e-mail notifications of when the evaluations open. Evaluations are stored and reported in a completely anonymous manner. Authentication for evaluation submission is only to ensure that only one evaluation is submitted per student per instructor.

Tentative Course Schedule

<i>Module #</i>	<i>Open Date</i>	<i>Close Date</i>	<i>Subject</i>
0			Introduction
1	August 25	August 31	Levels of Analysis
2	September 1	September 7	Observational Studies of Behavior
3	September 8	September 14	Development of Behavior
4	September 15	September 21	Control and Organization of Behavior
5	September 22	September 28	Social Living
6	September 29	October 5	Predators
7	October 6	October 12	Food
	October 17	October 19	EXAM I, Modules 1-7
8	October 20	October 26	Reproduction and Mating Systems I
9	October 27	November 2	Reproduction and Mating Systems II
10	November 3	November 9	Home and Movement
11	November 10	November 16	Communication
12	November 17	November 23	Parental Care
13	November 24	December 3	Human behavior
	December 7	December 10	Exam II, Modules 8-13