

## BIOL 3310-001 Special Topics Seminar: Readings in Animal Behavior

MTWRF 1<sup>00</sup> - 4<sup>45</sup>pm Classroom TBA

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Office Hours: 30 min before & 15 min after each class session

\*\* **Maymester 2017** \*\* Please note **census date May 16** and **drop deadline May 23** \*\*

**Description of Course Content:** This is a student-driven special topics seminar course featuring themes in behavioral ecology and ethology. Topics will include: predator-prey interactions, sexual selection & courtship behavior, parental care, migration & dispersal, social behavior & altruism, aggression & conflict, innate vs. learned behavior, behavioral science applications, cognition (in non-human animals), and evolutionary psychology (in humans).

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Students will become familiar with the historical progression of paradigm shifts and evolving research methods in this relatively young field of study. They will come to understand how varied behavioral responses across a diverse array of species (including our own) have been shaped by evolution in an ecological context. Students will obtain practice with library research, including exposure to foundational and contemporary primary literature in ethology and behavioral ecology. Students will also hone their oral presentation skills.

### Required Textbooks:

Frans de Waal, *Are We Smart Enough to Know How Smart Animals Are?* ISBN-10: 0393353664

Robert Sapolsky, *The Trouble With Testosterone, and other essays on the biology of the human predicament* ISBN-10: 0684838915

### Agenda

### reading chapters due

May 15 M	assign discussion leader dates & chapters, presentation dates & topics; library tutorial	
May 16 T	reading discussion, video segments	de Waal 1-2 (p7-62)
May 17 W	reading discussion, video segments	de Waal 3-4 (p63-118)
May 18 Th	reading discussion, individual consultations by appointment	de Waal 5-6 (p119-204)
May 19 F	reading discussion, individual consultations by appointment	de Waal 7-9 (p205-276)
May 22 M	reading discussion, student presentations	Sapolsky 1-4 (p19-74)
May 23 T	reading discussion, student presentations	Sapolsky 5-8 (p75-124)
May 24 W	reading discussion, student presentations	Sapolsky 9-12 (p125-174)
May 25 Th	reading discussion, student presentations	Sapolsky 13-16 (p175-228)
May 26 F	reading discussion, student presentations	Sapolsky 16-17 (p229-286)
May 29 M	<b>Memorial Day Holiday (no class)</b>	
May 30 T	student presentations, wrap up & review	
May 31 W	<b>Final Exam</b>	

*As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. – Jill DeVito, PhD*

**Descriptions of major assignments and examinations:** Students will lead class discussions based on assigned readings. Students are expected to keep up with readings and participate in class discussions. More than half of our class time will be set aside for student term presentations based on library research. Each student will be assigned a presentation theme and a group of possible study organisms, but each will narrow their topic further based on library research and individual consultations with the instructor. Guidelines outlining expectations for assignments will be available on the first day of class.

### Grading Policy:

- 10% attendance
- 30% participation (leading one readings-based discussion session, and participating in others)
- 30% term project ~25 minute oral presentation (or 40 min presentation w/partner); bibliography
- 30% final exam (synthesis of course themes; short answer / essay format)

**semester grade:** A = 89.5-100%, B = 79.5-89.4% C = 69.5-79.4%, D = 59.5-69.4%, F < 59.5%

**Attendance Policy:** At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. **In this class, attendance will be recorded and calculated as 10% of your total semester grade.** Attendance is also (obviously) a prerequisite for leading / participating in discussions, and for giving your term presentation.

**Make-up Policies:** Make-up exams are not possible during the condensed time frame of the Summer Intercession.

**Expectations for Out-of-Class Study:** The intercession time frame is intense. You will read two books and prepare a term presentation within less than two weeks. Please plan accordingly.

**Academic Integrity:** All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

Instructors may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2. 2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.**

**Americans With Disabilities Act:** If you are a student who requires accommodations in compliance with the ADA, please consult with me at the beginning of the semester. As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Your responsibility is to inform me of the disability at the beginning of the semester and provide me with documentation authorizing the specific accommodation. Student services at UTA include the Office for Students with Disabilities (located in the lower level of the University Center) which is responsible for verifying and implementing accommodations to ensure equal opportunity in all programs and activities.

**Electronic Communication:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**Drop for non-payment of tuition:** Payment must be received by the term due date or your registration will be cancelled. If your registration is cancelled for non-payment, you may reregister for classes but only if seats are available.

**Grade Grievance Policy:** Please refer to the current undergraduate catalog for the grade grievance policy and the required timeframe for filing an appeal.