

Wildlife 305/505 Section 1: Behavioral Ecology

Spring 2019

Lec: Mon & Wed 11:00-11:50 am—TNR 359
Lab: Mon 8:00-10:00 am—TNR 354

Instructor: Dr. Cady Sartini csartini@uwsp.edu
Office: 186 TNR
Telephone: 346-4546
Office hours: Tues & Weds 1:00 pm-3:00 pm or by appointment

Course Description:

Behavioral Ecology is a study of the ecological and evolutionary basis for animal behavior, including the adaptive significance of behaviors and the importance of behavior to conservation. Students will be actively engaged in the field of Behavioral Ecology in three different ways, including traditional lectures, group discussions of model systems, and a wide variety of demonstrative labs.

Course Outcomes:

As a result of completing this course, participants will:

- 1) Be familiar with a wide variety of concepts and theories important to the field,
- 2) Appreciate the importance of behavioral ecology in a conservation context,
- 3) Be familiar with typical methods for measuring and recording behavior in both field and captive settings and choose which methods might work better in different situations,
- 4) Identifying the theoretical basis of experimental work, and
- 5) Practice formal and informal communication related to behavioral ecology.

Required Text:

Model Systems in Behavioral Ecology: Integrating Conceptual, Theoretical, and Empirical Approaches, 1st Edition by Dugatkin (2001), Princeton University Press (required rental)

Optional texts:

Measuring Behavior: An Introductory Guide, 3rd Edition by Martin and Bateson (2007), Cambridge University Press

Power Points:

I will be using Power Point presentations extensively in lecture, especially to highlight identification features. I will post these on Canvas immediately after each lecture (to encourage note-taking during class). Please recognize that these postings are not comprehensive in detail and are not meant to serve as a substitute for attendance or note taking in class.

Participation:

Your participation in this class is both beneficial to you and is vital to making the class work the way I would like. Your participation in class (especially in labs and discussions) will be worth 50 points (half an exam grade).

Missed discussions and presentations:

The schedule for this class is tight, and will not easily allow the rescheduling of presentations or discussions. If you are not present on the day of your scheduled presentation or discussions, you will receive a 0 for that portion of the assignment. The

only exception to this will be with a signed note from a doctor. Groups should be prepared to present on the assigned days regardless of whether the entire group is present.

Exams:

Exams will consist of a variety of short answer, fill in the blank, multiple guess, and essay type questions covering material from lectures, chapter discussions and labs. Vocabulary sections of exams will be cumulative based on the master list of vocabulary posted on Canvas.

Quizzes:

Reading quizzes will be presented on Canvas are meant to encourage preparation for chapter discussions. Quizzes will be available one week in advance of each discussion and will close at 11:00 am on the day of the discussion. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Proposal:

Throughout the semester you will work on a proposal to study behavioral ecology in any system you choose with a budget of \$100,000. You will have several opportunities to informally present your proposal in class before the final presentation and paper is due at the end of the semester. The proposal may be completed either as a group or as an individual.

Lab summaries:

Instead of weekly lab reports, you will pick two labs throughout the semester to use for an abbreviated summary.

Laptops/phones:

Out of respect for those around you, please do not use laptops or phones in class, unless you have spoken with me beforehand.

Grading:

Evaluation:	<u>points</u>	Grades	
		93% and above	A
Exam 1	100	90-92%	A-
Exam 2	100	87-89%	B+
Exam 3	100	83-86%	B
Proposal	100	80-82%	B-
Lead discussion	50	77-79%	C+
Quizzes	20	73-76%	C
Lab summaries	30	70-72%	C-
Participation	50	67-69%	D+
		64-66%	D
TOTAL	550	62 and below	F

Wildlife 305 – Behavioral Ecology
Spring 2019 – TENTATIVE Lecture & Lab Schedule

WEEK	MONDAY Lab*	MONDAY Lecture	WEDNESDAY Chapter Discussions
Jan 21-25			Introduction to the class
Jan 28-Feb 1	Ethograms (Various) TNR 361	Foundations of Behavior	Foundations of Behavior
Feb 4-8	Activity budgets (Guppies)* TNR 354	Dominance	Sartini – Dominance Ch 8: Swordtails
Feb 11-15	Dominance (Songbirds) TNR 354	Territoriality	Sartini – Territoriality Ch 9: Anoles
Feb 18-22	Mate selection (TBD)* TNR 354	Mate Selection	Sartini – Mate Selection Ch 18: Barn swallow
Feb 25-Mar 1	Project Pitches —Group Brainstorming TNR 354	Project Pitches —Group Brainstorming	EXAM 1
Mar 4-8	Communication (Domestic dogs) TBD	Communication	Discussion – Communication TBD
Mar 11-15	Habitat complexity (Anti- predator behavior; Minnows)* TNR 354	Cooperation	Discussion – Cooperation TBD
Mar 18-22	SPRING BREAK		
Mar 25-29	Distance to Flight (Antipredator behavior)* Schmeckle	Stress	Discussion – Group size TBD
Apr 1-5	Optimal foraging (TBD)* TNR 354	Foraging	Discussion – Foraging TBD
Apr 8-12	Project development - Group brainstorming TNR 354	Project development – Group brainstorming	EXAM 2
Apr 15-19	Novel objects (Boldness; Bluegill)* TNR 354	Competition	Discussion – Parasites TBD
Apr 22-26	Arena trials (Crayfish)* TNR 354	Damage	Discussion – Plasticity TBD
Apr 29-May 3	Project presentations TNR 361	Behavioral Cascades	Discussion – Competition TBD
May 6-10	Project presentations TNR 361	Project presentations	Discussion – Dispersal TBD

Final Exam: Wednesday, May 15th, 12:30-2:30 pm
(66% cumulative)

*Lab is eligible for write ups

In the event of an emergency:

In the event of a medical emergency, call 911 or use red emergency phone located [**outside TNR 355**]. Offer assistance if trained and willing to do so. Guide emergency responders to victim.

In the event of a tornado warning, proceed to the lowest level interior room without window exposure along the **hallway outside of the elevators on the first floor**, or in **TNR rooms 153 or 157**. See www.uwsp.edu/rmgt/Pages/em/procedures/other/floor-plans for floor plans showing severe weather shelters on campus. Avoid wide-span rooms and buildings.

In the event of a fire alarm, evacuate the building in a calm manner. **Meet in front of the mural on the TNR building**. Notify an instructor or emergency command personnel of any missing individuals.

Active Shooter – Run/Escape, Hide, Fight. If trapped hide, lock doors, turn off lights, spread out and remain quiet. Follow instructions of emergency responders.

See UW-Stevens Point Emergency Management Plan at www.uwsp.edu/rmgt for details on all emergency response at UW-Stevens Point.