

## **Wildlife 305/505 Section 2: Behavioral Ecology Spring 2020**

**Lec:** Mon & Wed 11:00-11:50 am—TNR 359  
**Lab:** Mon 12:00-1:50 pm—TNR 354

**Instructor:** Dr. Cady Sartini [csartini@uwsp.edu](mailto:csartini@uwsp.edu)  
**Office:** 186 TNR  
**Telephone:** 346-4546  
**Office hours:** Tues 11am-12pm & Weds 2-4pm or by appointment

**TA:** Angelina Dunomes [aduno271@uwsp.edu](mailto:aduno271@uwsp.edu)

### **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, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition by Dugatkin (2001), Princeton University Press (required rental)

### **Optional texts:**

Measuring Behavior: An Introductory Guide, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:**

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

Wildlife 305/505 – Behavioral Ecology  
Spring 2020 – TENTATIVE Lecture & Lab Schedule

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>MONDAY</b> Lab*	<b>MONDAY</b> Lecture	<b>WEDNESDAY</b> Chapter Discussions
1: Jan 20-22			Introduction to the class
2: Jan 27-29	Ethograms (Various) <b>TNR 361</b>	Foundations of Behavior	Foundations of Behavior
3: Feb 3-5	Activity budgets (Guppies)* <b>TNR 354</b>	Dominance	Sartini – Dominance Ch 8: Swordtails
4: Feb 10-12	Open field test (Corn snakes)* <b>TNR 354</b>	Territoriality	Sartini – Territoriality Ch 9: Anoles
5: Feb 17-19	Mate selection (Cichlids)* <b>TNR 354</b>	Mate Selection	Sartini – Mate Selection Ch 18: Barn swallow
6: Feb 24-26	<b>Project Pitches</b> —Group Brainstorming <b>TNR 354</b>	<b>Project Pitches</b> —Group Brainstorming	<b>EXAM 1</b>
7: Mar 2-4	Communication (Domestic dogs) <b>TBD</b>	Communication	Discussion – Communication TBD
8: Mar 9-11	Anti-predator behavior (Minnows)* <b>TNR 354</b>	Cooperation	Discussion – Cooperation TBD
Mar 16-20	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>		
9: Mar 23-25	Distance to Flight (Antipredator behavior)* <b>Schmeckle</b>	Stress	Discussion – Group size TBD
10: Mar 30-Apr 1	Optimal foraging (TBD)* <b>TNR 354</b>	Foraging	Discussion – Foraging TBD
11: Apr 6-8	<b>Project development</b> - Group brainstorming <b>TNR 354</b>	<b>Project development</b> – Group brainstorming	<b>EXAM 2</b>
12: Apr 13-15	Novel objects (Boldness; Bluegill)* <b>TNR 354</b>	Competition	Discussion – Parasites TBD
13: Apr 20-22	Arena trials (Crayfish)* <b>TNR 354</b>	Damage	Discussion – Plasticity TBD
14: Apr 27-29	Supplanting (Songbirds) <b>Schmeckle</b>	Conservation Behavior	Discussion – Competition TBD
15: May 4-6	Project presentations <b>TNR 361</b>	Project presentations	Discussion – Dispersal TBD

**Final Exam:** Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 8:00-10:00 am  
(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](http://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](http://www.uwsp.edu/rmgt) for details on all emergency response at UW-Stevens Point.