

# Wildlife 365/565: Behavioral Ecology

## Spring 2023

**Lab:** Mon 11:00am-12:50 am—TNR 354  
**Lect:** Mon 1:00-1:50 pm—TNR 354  
Wed 1:00-1:50 pm—TNR 352

**Instructor:** Dr. Cady Sartini [csartini@uwsp.edu](mailto:csartini@uwsp.edu)  
**Office:** 186 TNR  
**Telephone:** 346-4546  
**Office hours:** Weds 9-11am (Zoom only; <https://wisconsin-edu.zoom.us/j/7153464546>)  
Thur 2-3 pm (TNR 186)  
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, 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 (or before when possible). 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 well for others.

### 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 discussion, you will receive a 0 for that portion of the assignment. The only exception to this will be by discussing with me in advance. 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 1:00 pm 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 \$500,000. 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>	<u>points</u>	<b>Grades</b>	
		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	40	73-76%	C
Lab summaries	30	70-72%	C-
Participation	30	67-69%	D+
		64-66%	D
TOTAL	550	62 and below	F

Wildlife 365/565 – Behavioral Ecology  
Spring 2023 – TENTATIVE Lecture & Lab Schedule

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>MONDAY</b> Lab* – TNR 354	<b>MONDAY</b> Lecture – TNR 354	<b>WEDNESDAY</b> Chapter Discussions – TNR 352
1: Jan 23-27	<b>No lab</b>	Introduction to the class	Foundations of Behavior
2: Jan 30-Feb 3	Ethograms (Various) <b>Confirm Chapter Discussion Schedules</b>	Conservation Behavior Scenarios/Brainstorming	<b>No class in-person</b> <b>Proposal groups due on Canvas</b>
3: Feb 6-10	Activity budgets (Guppies)*	Dominance	Sartini – Dominance Ch 9: Anoles
4: Feb 13-17	Observer reliability TWS Deer	Mate Selection	Sartini – Mate Selection Ch 18: Barn swallow
5: Feb 20-24	<b>Proposal Pitches</b>	<b>Project Pitches</b>	<b>EXAM 1</b>
6: Feb 27-Mar 3	Open field test (Corn snakes)*	Cooperation	Discussion 1 – Cooperation
7: Mar 6-10	<b>No class in-person</b> <b>Deer I due Friday</b>	Territoriality	Discussion 2 – Territoriality
8: Mar 13-17	Preference test (Minnows)*	Stress	Discussion 3 – Group size
Mar 20-24	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>		
9: Mar 27-31	Supplanting (Songbirds) <b>Schmeeckle</b>	Foraging	Discussion 4 – Foraging
10: Apr 3-7	<b>Proposal development</b>	<b>Project development</b>	<b>EXAM 2</b>
11: Apr 10-14	<b>No class in-person</b> <b>Deer II due Friday</b>	Communication	Discussion 5 – Communication
12: Apr 17-21	Novel objects (Shiners)*	Damage	Discussion 6 – Plasticity
13: Apr 24-28	<b>No class in-person</b> Distance to Flight (Antipredator behavior)*	<b>No class in-person</b> Conservation Behavior Canvas Recording	<b>No class in-person</b> <b>Lab summaries due on Canvas on 4/28</b>
14: May 1-5	<b>Primates Inc Field Trip</b> 10am-2pm <b>-or- Deer III</b>	Behaviorally-Mediated Trophic Cascades	Discussion 7 – Free space TBD
15: May 8-12	Proposal presentations	Proposal presentations	Proposal presentations and class wrap up

**Final Exam:** Mon, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 10:15-12:15pm  
(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.