

Wildlife 365/565: Behavioral Ecology Spring 2021

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

Instructor: Dr. Cady Sartini csartini@uwsp.edu
Office: 186 TNR
Office hours: Tues 1-2pm & Wed 9-10am (Zoom only)
<https://uwsp.zoom.us/j/7153464546>

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

Format:

We will utilize three different components for this class: Lectures, Labs, and Chapter Discussions. In general, Lectures and Labs will be scheduled on Mondays and Chapter Discussions on Wednesdays—but some weeks will have a different schedule to accommodate different features of the class. Lectures will be posted asynchronously on Canvas, but Chapter Discussions and other presentations will require synchronous participation via Zoom.

It is up to you to pay attention to the calendar and keep up with updates posted on Canvas to make sure you are following along appropriately.

Participation and Professionalism:

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 (via synchronous Zooms and asynchronous Canvas discussions) will be worth 50 points (half an exam grade). Participation in labs is also included in this category. Active participation in in-person labs is required. For virtual or on-your-own labs, you will have small assignments to submit so I can confirm that you completed the lab as required.

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 without an excused absence (and notification in advance), you will receive a 0 for that portion of the assignment. 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.

Grading:

Evaluation:	points	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

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.

Wildlife 305/505 – Behavioral Ecology
Spring 2021 – TENTATIVE Lecture & Lab Schedule

WEEK	MONDAY Lab*	MONDAY Lecture	WEDNESDAY Chapter Discussions
1: Jan 25-27		Introduction to the class - ZOOM	Forming discussion groups – ZOOM
2: Feb 1-3	Ethograms (All) Various species IP and Virtual	Foundations of Behavior	Foundations of Behavior – ZOOM
3: Feb 8-10	Activity budgets* (All) Guppies IP and Virtual	Dominance	Sartini – Dominance Ch 8: Swordtails
4: Feb 15-17	Open field test* Corn snakes IP	Territoriality	Sartini – Territoriality Ch 9: Anoles
	Distance to Flight Various On your own, Virtual		
5: Feb 22-24	Open field test* Corn snakes IP, Virtual	Mate Selection	Sartini – Mate Selection Ch 18: Barn swallow
	Distance to Flight Various On your own		
6: Mar 1-3	Project Pitches—Group Brainstorming Zoom	Live lab debrief Zoom	EXAM 1 – NO CLASS
7: Mar 8-10	Anti-predator behavior* Minnows IP	Communication	Group? – Communication TBD
	Communication Domestic dogs On your own, Virtual		
8: Mar 15-17	Anti-predator behavior (Minnows)* IP, Virtual	Cooperation	Group? – Cooperation TBD
	Communication Domestic dogs On your own		
Mar 22-27	SPRING BREAK		

9: Mar 29-31	Novel objects* Bluegill IP	Stress	Group? – Group size TBD
	Supplanting Songbirds On your own, Virtual		
10: Apr 5-7	Novel objects* Bluegill Virtual	Foraging	Group? – Foraging TBD
	Supplanting Songbirds On your own		
11: Apr 12-14	Project development- Group brainstorming TNR 354	Live lab debrief Zoom	EXAM 2 – NO CLASS
12: Apr 19-21	TBD	Competition	Group? – Parasites TBD
13: Apr 26-28	TBD	Damage	Group? – Plasticity TBD
14: May 3-5	TBD	Conservation Behavior	Group? – Competition TBD
15: May 10-12	Project presentations Zoom	Live lab debrief	Group? – Dispersal TBD

Final Exam: Wed, May 19th, 12:30-2:30 pm
(66% cumulative)

*Lab is eligible for write ups