

Course Syllabus
AGSC 429 Domestic Animal Behavior
Truman State University
Spring, 2017

Instructor

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Catalog Information

Credits: 3

Prerequisite: AGSC 215 Animal Agriculture or one introductory animal science course

Description: Through this course students will learn how and why domesticated animals behave the way they do. Emphasis will be placed on how to objectively measure and interpret animal behavior and how to apply this knowledge to improve animal environments.

Time and Location

Online, no set meeting time.

While there is no specified class meeting time, it is expected that you will devote approximately 3 hours per week per credit (at least 9 hours per week) for the 15 week duration of this class.

Course Materials

Textbook: Jensen, Per. 2009. The ethology of domestic animals: An introductory text, 2nd edition. CAB International.

All other course materials (including supplemental materials, reading assignments and recorded lectures) will be posted on Blackboard.

Required Technology

In order to complete the requirements of this course, students must have access to a computer with high-speed internet. Students must be able to use Microsoft Office, Excel, and PowerPoint or Google Docs, Sheets, and Slides. It is highly encouraged for students to also have access to a web-cam and microphone in order to participate in Skype calls (useful for help during Online Office Hours). Students are encouraged to contact the IT Service Center for any technology related issues. The Truman State University IT Service Center Helpdesk can be reached at 660-785-4544, and is located at the Pickler Memorial Library in Room 203.

Course Learning Goals

1. Describe fundamental processes involved in development and control of behavior.
2. Distinguish between the four types of questions that may be asked about animal behavior, and formulate hypotheses of each type to explain a behavior.
3. Apply ethological principles to domestic animals.
4. Address how management and environmental modifications can affect animal behavior.
5. Develop observational skills and learn how to report behavioral observations.
6. Appreciate and appraise current published work in the field of animal behavior.

Grading

<u>Evaluation method</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Points Possible</u>	<u>Total Points</u>
Discussion board	15	10	150
Assignments	11	-	290
Quizzes	14	10	140
Exams	2	100	200
Total points possible			780

Grading Scale:

A = 90% or more D = 60 – 69.9%
B = 80 – 89.9% F = 59.9% or below
C = 70 – 79.9%

Course Format

By the Friday before the designated week (i.e. week 2 lectures will be released on Friday of week 1), recorded lectures and weekly quizzes (or exam) will be released according to the attached syllabus. Students will be expected to complete the discussion board posts, reading assignments, and weekly assignment that facilitate a deeper understanding of this material. Lectures will relate to the weekly quiz, reading assignment, and discussion board post; therefore, students must stay on-track with weekly lecture videos in order to obtain a successful grade in the course. Recorded lectures will remain available for the remainder of the semester for students to review as needed. Students will be expected to complete weekly material for that week by 11:59 pm on Friday of the designated week.

Discussion Post Participation

There are 15 required discussion post assignments. Unless otherwise indicated, students are required to contribute at least two posts for each discussion assignment (1. An initial post that addresses the discussion question; 2. A feedback post to one or more of your group members initial posts). Original discussion posts (1) should be completed within the specified timeline (listed on syllabus schedule) and peer feedback posts (2) should be completed the following week (11:59 pm on Friday). Each discussion assignment is worth 10 points. Points will be deducted for tardiness (posting after specified deadline, amount deducted will depend on degree of tardiness: you will be eligible for 10% fewer points for every day past the due date).

Important Considerations for Online Learning

The online format of this class should be advantageous for students to allow flexibility in scheduling. However, it is critical that students complete the modules according to the scheduled timeline. Furthermore, students must participate by posting on the discussion boards of Blackboard. This is critical to maintaining a positive group-learning environment. Students are responsible for keeping up with assignment, quiz, and exam deadlines. All deadlines will be available on the Blackboard calendar and the attached syllabus. Grades will be updated every Monday to assist students in keeping track of their progress and current standing in the course.

Instructor Interaction

I understand that one of the biggest drawbacks to online courses is the lack of student-instructor interaction. I will do my best to make this online course a comfortable learning environment with instructor feedback on all aspects of the learning process. I will do this by recording lectures, providing input and further discussion on discussion board posts, and giving input on assignments and exams. Additionally, peer-feedback groups will be formed for the discussion boards to facilitate greater student interaction. I will schedule meetings over the first two weeks to hold a brief video conference with each group to help facilitate a comfortable course environment.

I will also be available for questions, discussion, etc. during my online office hours which will be scheduled for 4 hours per week. Students are encouraged to email or post to the appropriate discussion board during those times to receive the most rapid feedback. I can also be reached by phone or video conference call at these times. If a student has a question outside of the posted office hours, email is the preferred method of contact. Please allow 24 hours for response.

Course Policies

Late assignments: If you miss an assignment due to an authorized reason (see definition above) the assignment is due within 1 week of the original due date and is eligible for full allocation of the points. If you miss an assignment due to an unauthorized reason (see definition above) you will be eligible for 10% fewer points for every day past the due date.

Academic integrity/plagiarism: Under no circumstances is a student to use unauthorized materials during a test. Also it is never acceptable to plagiarize the work of another, which means to me, copying a sentence word for word from another source without properly attributing that information to the source. Evidence of cheating or plagiarism will be taken seriously and if the evidence is substantiated, the student will at least receive an F for the assignment. For a list of other actions that might be taken, refer to the student handbook: http://conduct.truman.edu/docs/Academic_Integrity_booklet_2005.pdf

Americans with Disabilities Act: If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Disability Services office (x4478) as soon as possible.

Title IX: Truman State University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and fostering an environment that is free from bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual misconduct (e.g., sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, domestic or dating violence), we encourage you report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, that faculty member is a “mandated reporter” and must notify Truman State University’s Title IX Coordinator, Jamie Ball (McClain Hall, 101, jball@truman.edu, 785-4354) and share the basic fact of your experience with her. The Title IX Coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all your options and in connecting you with resources both on and off campus. If you would prefer to have a confidential conversation about an experience, the counselors at University Counseling Services are NOT mandated reporters and they can be reached at 660-785-4014. For after-hours crisis counseling, call 660-665-5621. For more information regarding Truman’s policies and procedures relating to any form of gender discrimination, please see <http://eoaa.truman.edu/university-non-discrimination-policy/> and <http://eoaa.truman.edu/complaint-reporting-resolution-procedure/>.

Course Schedule

*This schedule is subject to change. Any changes will be announced via Blackboard.

Week	Topic Lectures released the Friday before the designated week	Assignment			
		Discussion board post (10 points each)	Reading assignment	Other assignment (points vary)	Assessment (10 points/quiz; 100 points/exam)
Unit 1: Basic elements of animal behavior					
1	-Intro to the course -Netiquette & Procedures for the semester -Intro to animal behavior	-Introductions Due Friday by 11:59 pm	Jensen text: Ch. 1	-Group video conference with instructor (10 pts)	Quiz 1 Due Friday by 11:59 pm
2	-Scientific method -Measuring animal behavior	-Methods of measuring animal behavior Due Friday by 11:59 pm	Book chapter: Dawkins, 2007 Ch. 3	-Measuring animal behavior video assignment (20 pts)	Quiz 2 Due Friday by 11:59 pm
3	-Cognitive ethology: Animal perception -Applied ethology: Animal welfare assessments -Applied ethology: Improving animal performance	-Everyday examples of cognitive or applied ethology Due Friday by 11:59 pm	Journal article: Siegford et al., 2008	-Welfare assessment comparisons (20 pts)	Quiz 3 Due Friday by 11:59 pm
4	-Tinbergen’s questions -Evolutionary behavior -Behavioral function	-Everyday examples of evolutionary behavior or behavioral function Due Friday by 11:59 pm	Jensen text: Ch. 2 & 4	-Evaluate a behavior based on Tinbergen’s questions (20 pts)	Quiz 4 Due Friday by 11:59 pm
5	-Developmental behavior -Causes of behavior	-Everyday examples of developmental behavior or behavioral causes Due Friday by 11:59 pm	Jensen text: Ch. 3	-Unit 1 reflection (20 pts)	Quiz 5 Due Friday by 11:59 pm
Unit 2: Organization of behavior					
6	-Stress behavior -Abnormal behavior -Animal welfare	-Everyday examples of stress or abnormal behavior Due Friday by 11:59 pm	Jensen text: Ch. 7	-Identifying stereotypes video assignment (20 pts)	Quiz 6 Due Friday by 11:59 pm
7	-Animal learning -Animal training	-Everyday examples of animal learning	Jensen text: Ch. 5	-Evaluate a behavioral	Quiz 7 Due Friday by 11:59

		Due Friday by 11:59 pm		modification plan (20 pts)	pm
8	-Animal social behavior -Animal reproductive behavior	-Everyday examples of animal social behavior Due Friday by 11:59 pm	Jensen text: Ch. 6	-None	Midterm exam (Take home exam) Due Friday by 11:59 pm
9	-Human-animal interaction -Animal-assisted therapy	-Everyday examples of human-animal interaction Due Friday by 11:59 pm	Jensen text: Ch. 8	-Create a behavioral modification plan (20 pts)	Quiz 8 Due Friday by 11:59 pm
10	-Maternal and neonatal behavior -Juvenile and play behavior	-Everyday examples of maternal, neonatal, or juvenile behavior Due Friday by 11:59 pm	Journal article: Held and Spinka, 2011	-Unit 2 reflection (20 pts)	Quiz 9 Due Friday by 11:59 pm
Unit 3: Environmental modifications and species-specific behaviors					
11	-Environmental enrichment -Environmental impacts on animal behavior	-Everyday examples of environmental enrichment Due Friday by 11:59 pm	Journal article: Newberry, 1995	-Final project: Design an environmental enrichment device or an improved animal facility to facilitate modified animal behavior Due finals week (100 pts)	Quiz 10 Due Friday by 11:59 pm
12	-Feline behavior -Canine behavior -Lab animal behavior	-Everyday examples of feline, canine, or lab animal species-specific behaviors Due Friday by 11:59 pm	Jensen text: Ch. 14-16		Quiz 11 Due Friday by 11:59 pm
13	-Fish behavior -Poultry behavior -Pig behavior	-Everyday examples of fish, poultry, or pig species-specific behavior Due Friday by 11:59 pm	Jensen text: Ch. 9 & 13		Quiz 12 Due Friday by 11:59 pm
14	-Horse behavior -Cattle behavior -Sheep and goat behavior	-Everyday examples of horse, cattle, sheep, or goat species-specific behavior Due Friday by 11:59 pm	Jensen text: Ch. 10-12		Quiz 13 Due Friday by 11:59 pm
15	-Zoo animal behavior	-Everyday examples of zoo animal behavior Due Friday by 11:59 pm	Journal article: Seidensticker and Doherty, 1996		Quiz 14 Due Friday by 11:59 pm
Finals week				Final exam (Take home exam) Due Wednesday by 11:59 pm	