

## **EEB/ PSYCH 450: COMPARATIVE ANIMAL BEHAVIOR**

### **Spring 2014: T&R 11:10-12:25 p.m. Dougherty Engineering 416**

**Instructor:** Karen M. Davis, Ph.D.

**Office location:** A313 Walters Life Science (at end of A corridor)

**Email:** [kdavis23@utk.edu](mailto:kdavis23@utk.edu) (Best way to contact me)

Please put 'CAB 450' in the subject line of the email. Please email me directly! **Do not** hit respond to emails I send to the class through blackboard.

**Office Hours:** TR 1:00-2:00 or by appointment **Phone:** (865) 974-2799

**TA:** Lisa Cantwell [lcantwe1@utk.edu](mailto:lcantwe1@utk.edu) **Office hour:** Hesler 526 Mondays 11am-1pm

**Required text:** Dugatkin, Lee Alan 2013. *Principles of Animal Behavior* 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition.

**Course Description & Objectives:** Comparative Animal Behavior introduces students to the world of Animal Behavior. This course will investigate the conceptual, theoretical, and empirical foundations of the field of animal behavior. First we will exam the history of ethology including the types of questions and methods used in studying animal behavior. Then we will investigate specific categories of behavior such as learning, courtship, foraging, communication, aggression, play and antipredator behavior from a conceptual, theoretical, and empirical perspective. Finally students will learn to observe behavior.

**Student Responsibilities:** To do well in this course you will need to read the textbook, take good notes during class, and study. The material we cover includes a lot of details so please understand that preparing for exams will require effort on your part. You are mainly responsible for lecture material, and assigned book chapters.

**Disability Statement:** If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a documented disability or if you have emergency disability information, please contact the office of Disability Services at 191 Hoskins Library or 974-6087. This will ensure that you are properly registered for services.

**Academic Honesty:** Your academic performance is based on YOUR honest efforts. Cheating may take 2 forms: 1) the unauthorized possession or use of notes, texts, or other such materials during an examination; 2) copying another person's work or participation in such an effort. Student's found cheating will receive an F on the exam. At my discretion, I may seek additional action through university channels (See the honor statement, Hill topics, p. 30).

**Classroom Protocol:** It is expected that all students attending the course be attentive, polite, and not a source of distraction to the instructor or any other student. PLEASE remember to turn off your *cell phones* or *paggers*. Please be considerate and respectful to the instructor and fellow students.

**Exams:** Be on time for exams as YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TAKE THE EXAM IF SOMEONE HAS ALREADY HANDED IN THE EXAM! **If you need to miss an exam for an important reason you must contact me (in person, or email) at least 24 hours before the scheduled exam with a viable excuse, otherwise your missed exam will become your dropped exam grade.** Written documentation for missing the exam must be provided within 5 days of the missed exam. I reserve the right to determine whether an excuse is worthy of a make-up exam.

**Grades:** Exams in this class will consist of a mixture of any of the following: multiple choice, matching questions, short answer and essays. Exams will come from lecture material (~60%), articles & text book (~40%). There will be 3 exams throughout the semester and a comprehensive final exam (each worth 100 pts). The lowest exam grade will be dropped so that each of the remaining exams will add up to 300 pts. There will be two in class group presentations based on the article readings worth 30 pts (15 pts each), a project/paper worth 100 pts and a Quiz worth 30pts. Please note that the project grade cannot be dropped! There are a total of 460 pts to earn in this class. Graduate and honors students will have additional project requirements (see below). Extra credit may be given during class time in the way of quizzes or as assignments etc.

<b>Class Points:</b>	Exam 1	100 pts
	Exam 2	100 pts
	Exam 3	100 pts
	Group discussions (15 each)	30 pts
	Project/Paper	100 pts
	Quiz	30 pts
	Final exam	100 pts
	--Drop lowest exam grade	
	<hr/> <b>Total</b>	<b>460 pts</b>

**Grades:** Final grades will be based on the new UT scale. A: 93 – 100%; A-: 90 – 92%; B+: 87 – 89%; B: 83 – 86%; B-: 80 – 82%; C+: 77 – 79%; C: 73 – 76%; C-: 70 – 72%; D+: 67 – 69%; D: 63 – 69%; D-: 60 – 62%; F: 59% and below. I will follow the University policy for withdrawals and in-completes.

**Honors & Graduate student additional requirements:** Honors students and graduate students will be expected to hand in essays that answer questions on the article reading one week after group discussion one (the essay will be due 2/06/14). Their second essay will be on articles for exam 2 and will be due 4/10/14. Furthermore, Honors and graduate students will be expected to complete a more comprehensive scientific paper based on the class ethogram project (Honors and Graduate students papers will include a title page, abstract, introduction, methods, data collection, ethogram, results, discussion and references).

**Attendance/Extra Credit:** It will be to your benefit to attend class as any **extra credit** will be given during class. Furthermore, I will often cover material at a different level of detail from that of the textbook and some material covered in lecture will not be covered in the book. Students are responsible for making arrangements *with other students* to obtain information, from missed classes.

**Black Board:** This course has a Blackboard site, which you can access by going online at <http://online.utk.edu> Your Blackboard login ID and password should be the same as your NetID and password. Our Blackboard site will contain download-able lecture outlines, project assignment information, study guides, and the course syllabus. I will also post grades and make class announcements on Blackboard. These outlines are there to help you organize your notes and keep up with the lecture but they are not a substitute for coming to lecture.

**Note to Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Recipients:** If you wish to drop a course that would result in changing your status from full-time (12 or more hours) to part-time (11 hours or fewer), you must receive approval from the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships before doing so (974-3131). See the Financial Aid website at: <http://web.utk.edu/~finaid>