

Biology 278 – Animal Behavior

Syllabus for Fall 2009

Time and Place: Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00-12:15, Rm. 209 Manning Hall

Professor: Dr. Catherine M.F. Lohmann
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Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays after class as needed until 1:00 and by appointment

Class Website:

A website for Biol 278 –section 001 is available through <http://www.blackboard.unc.edu> This syllabus itself, old exams, and various other items will be posted throughout the semester for your reading pleasure. Bookmark it as soon as you are able – you'll be glad you did.

Course Goals: The course teaches the science of animal behavior. We will focus on what animals do, how they do it, why they do it, and perhaps most importantly, how WE as scientists can be sure of our information. That means we will spend a great deal of time discussing experimental procedures and results. **You will be challenged to understand the experiments and conclusions and to think about them analytically.**

Grading: We will have one homework assignment worth 10 points. Each student will be assigned a lecture to write 5 study questions for. The questions will be emailed to me, I will edit them, and then post them for the class to use. When enrollment settles down, I will announce the assignment. We will have two midterm exams of 100 pts each. Approximately 75% of the midterm questions will be multiple choice, and approximately 25% of the questions will require written answers. The multiple choice questions usually require a thoughtful analysis and only rarely rely on pure memorization. The written answers need to be clear, well-organized, and complete.

The final exam will be cumulative, worth 150 pts, and all multiple choice. Approximately 100 pts will cover new material since the second midterm, and 50 pts will cover old material.

Additional notes: There will be no extra credit. However, weight is given to improvement over the course of the semester, so that any initial difficulties can be overcome with effort. Grades will be assigned using a curve, although an 'A' typically requires at least 90%. Scores below 50% will always be failing grades. Scores below 60% will likely be failing.

Honor Code: As in any course at UNC, you are expected to adhere to the tenets of the student honor code and you will be asked to sign your exam as an indication that you will do so.

Exam Dates:

Exam 1:	Thursday, September 24
Exam 2:	Thursday, November 5
Final:	Saturday, December 12 at 12 noon.

Text: *Alcock, J. Animal Behavior: an Evolutionary Approach, 9th Edition.*
Reading will be posted throughout the semester.