

**Texas A&M University - Central Texas
PSYC 4303-110 ANIMAL BEHAVIOR**

INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Simone Alvarez, M.A., M.Sc.

Office: N/A

Phone: N/A

Email: simone.alvarez@tamuct.edu

IMPORTANT: For all course related communication please use Canvas messaging. Only when Canvas is not available you may use simone.alvarez@tamuct.edu for communication.

Office Hours:

I will be available via Canvas Collaborate. Date and time can be arranged prior via email on an appointment-basis.

Mode of instruction and course access:

This course is a 100% online course and uses TAMUCT Canvas site (tamuct.instructure.com). You will use your MyCT username and password to log on to and utilize this system.

Student-instructor interaction:

Email will be checked on daily basis and will be responded to within 24 hours (except on weekends). Appointments can also be set for virtual meetings. Just e-mail me to arrange a date and time.

Instructor's Personal Statement

Welcome to Animal Behavior! I am very excited to be your instructor for this course since the subject combines two things I feel very strongly about: 1.) Animals and 2.) The study of behavior and learning. I have an undergraduate and two graduate degrees from Tarleton State University/TAMUCT (I used to be a student at TAMUCT when it became a stand-alone university in 2009, which was a very exciting time). I loved attending college so much that I decided to stay in the field and pursue teaching and research as a career. During the last five years I have taught several classes in psychology and medicine and I have discovered that I like being an instructor just as much as I liked being a student. I am very proud to have the opportunity to be teaching for TAMUCT this summer, and I hope that at the end of the course, you'll be as excited as me about the study of animal behavior!

911 Cellular:

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University – Central Texas

911Cellular is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in 911 Cellular through their myCT email account.

Connect at [911Cellular](https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management) [https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in 911Cellular, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Overview:

A survey of the major areas of animal behavior research from a psychological perspective. Research examining the development and display of behaviors will include subject samples ranging from insects to humans conducted in natural, quasi-experimental, and experimental studies.

Course Objectives:

The general objectives (aka learning outcomes) for this course are:

1. have content-specific knowledge of animal behavior
2. have reviewed and discussed the methodology of studying animal behavior, the manner in which evolutionary pressures impact the development of certain behaviors, the mechanisms underlying behavior, and the functions of certain behaviors.
3. become familiar with the major terms and theories associated with the study of animal behavior.

Required Textbook:

Dugatkin, L. A. (2013). *Principals of Animal Behavior*. (3rd Ed.). W.W. Norton & Company. (ISBN: 978-0-393-92045-1)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course Requirements:

Exams: 300 Total Points

There will be three exams during this course. Each exam is worth 100 points each. Exams will be online, open book, and open note but must be completed individually. Exams must be taken in Canvas on the dates in the attached schedule (see course calendar). Once begun, exams must be completed within three hours. You will be given one opportunity to take each exam. Make sure that you are someplace with a reliable connection to Canvas. Student computer or student Internet Service Provider problems will not be accepted as an excuse for failing to take or complete the exam. Students will only be allowed to retest if there is a problem with Canvas or with University computing facilities. If a problem occurs with University equipment, please have the computing lab staff document the problem.

Alternate test forms may be presented to the students. If you want to challenge a test item, you will do so in writing no later than 1-day after the test has been closed. You are required to provide me with the question, your argument as to why the exam question is incorrect and any supporting information from the text or your notes supporting your argument. Your misunderstanding or misinterpretation of the item is not justification to present a challenge to the exam. Students are on the honor system for these exams and any violation will result in the student receiving a zero (0) for the exam and the possibility of further sanctions according to university policy (see Academic Honesty & Integrity, below).

Make-up exams will only be given for University excused absences. The professor reserves the right to change the exam format for make-up exams (e.g. essay as opposed to objective). Appropriate documentation will be required to be given a make-up exam. If you know that you will not be able to take an exam on the scheduled date and contact me **PRIOR** to the scheduled date, alternate arrangements may be made at my discretion.

Literature Review: 25 Total Points

Each student will be required to create a Literature Review of one specific behavior or group of behaviors (e.g. foraging or mating) in a specific species. You will need to identify your target behavior and species, and then email your topic to me for approval. The resulting paper should be 4 – 8 pages excluding cover sheet and references. Additional guidelines will be posted in a separate document on Canvas.

Homework: 20 Total Points (incl. Introduction: 2 points)

There will be several questions posted for each chapter. Students are required to answer each question and submit their answers through the appropriate assignment tab in Canvas. Students should work on these questions individually. Each chapter's questions will be worth one point. **Homework assignments are due on Sunday of each week, except during week 8 which ends on Friday the 27th!**

Weekly Discussion Posts: 16 Total Points

You will have a number of discussion board posts during the semester and will be required to comment according to the instructions in the assignment (i.e., number of original posts and posts to classmates). All posts must be substantive and demonstrate that you have done all the reading associated with the discussion item. In order to get full credit for your individual and response posts you must create and respond to the questions as outlined by the grading criteria for the instructions assignment in Canvas. **Each discussion is worth 2 points (The initial introductory post is worth 1 point, each of the two responses to your classmates is worth .5 points).**

You can find your weekly questions posted under the “Discussions” tab in Canvas. In your tentative schedule below, you will find the dates and times when postings open for discussion and when they are no longer available. “No longer available” means that once the discussion board is closed and you will not be able to make up those points. Weekly posts are currently open and will close at the day and time indicated in Canvas.

Initial discussion posts are due on Thursday every week to allow students and instructor time for adequate replies and discussion. All responses are due by Sunday of each week.

Informal Discussion Board Posts:

Apart from the assigned homework questions, you are encouraged to pose your own questions and/or comments on the discussion board in Canvas. There might be topics or issues that you would like to discuss with the professor and/or your classmates. I will create an Informal Discussion thread on Canvas. Feel free to use this informal discussion board to raise questions, comments, etc. Since this is an online class, this provides everyone with an opportunity to interact with each other and provide opportunity for learning.

Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion

Graded Assignments	# Due	Points Each	Points Total	% of Overall Grade
Module Exams	3	100	300	83.0
Discussion & Replies	8	2	16	4.0
Literature review	1	25	25	7.0
Homework	18	1	18	5.0
Introduction	1	2	2	1.0
			360	100%

Posting of Grades:

Grades will be kept on Canvas gradebook. Grades will be posted for assignments no later than a week from assignment submission. Students should monitor their grading status through this tool.

<u>Points</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>University Definition</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
324 - 360	A	Excellent	90-100%
288 - 323	B	Good	80-89%
252 - 287	C	Fair	70-79%
216 - 251	D	Passing	60-69%
< 216	F	Failing	59% or below

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT.

Technology Requirements.

This course will use the TAMUCT Canvas Learn learning management system.

Logon to <https://tamuct.instructure.com> to access the course.

Username: Your MyCT username

(xx123 or everything before the "@" in your MyCT e-mail address)

Initial password: Your MyCT password

Check browser and computer compatibility by using the “Test Your Browser” button, found in the “Check Your Browser” module on your Canvas dashboard, once you have logged in.

Technology Support. For technology issues, students should contact Help Desk Central.

24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu

Phone: (254) 519-5466

Web Chat: <http://hdc.tamu.edu>

When calling for support please let your support technician know you are a TAMUCT student.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

Technology issues are not an excuse for missing a course requirement – make sure your computer is configured correctly and address issues well in advance of deadlines.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

Complete Course Calendar

Week	Chapter	Topic	Assignment due
		<i>Get ready!</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish library access from home ▪ Create a quiet study environment ▪ Identify at least two computers w/internet access that you can use for class 	Post your introduction! (Get to know each other: Reply to at least two classmates to get full points 😊)
Week 1 6/4 - 6/10	1, 2	-Principals of Animal Behavior -The Evolution of Behavior	Discussion 1 due 6/7 at 11:59pm Two responses due 6/10 at 11:59pm Homework questions 1-3 due 6/10 at 11:59pm
Week 2 6/11 - 6/17	3, 4	-Proximate Factors I Neurobiology and Hormones -Proximate Factors II Development and Molecular Genetics	Discussion 2 due 6/14 at 11:59pm Two responses due 17/6 at 11:59pm Homework questions 4-10 due 17/6 at 11:59pm
Week 3 6/18 - 6/24	5, 6	-Learning -Cultural Transmission	Discussion 3 due 6/21 at 11:59pm Two responses due 10/24 at 11:59pm Homework questions 11-18 due 10/24 at 11:59pm
Available 6/18 - 6/24			Exam 1 NLT 11:59pm 6/24
Week 4 6/25 - 7/1	7, 8	-Sexual Selection -Mating Selection	Discussion 4 due 6/28 at 11:59pm Two responses due 1/7 at 11:59pm Lit Review Topic due 1/7 at 11:59pm
Week 5 7/2 - 7/8	9,10	-Kinship -Cooperation	Discussion 5 due 7/5 at 11:59pm Two responses due 7/8 at 11:59pm

Available 7/2 - 7/8			Exam 2 NLT 11:59pm 7/8
Week 6 7/9 - 7/15	11,12	-Foraging -Antipredator Behavior	Discussion 6 due 7/12 at 11:59pm Two responses due 7/15 at 11:59pm
Week 7 7/16 - 7/22	13,14	-Communication -Habitat Selection, Territoriality, and Migration	Discussion 7 due 7/19 at 11:59pm Two responses due 7/22 at 11:59pm
7/20			Lit Review Due NLT 11:59pm 7/22
Week 8 7/23 - 7/27	15,16,17	-Aggression -Play -Animal Personalities	Discussion 8 due 7/26 at 11:59pm Two responses due 27/7 at 11:59pm
Available 7/22 - 7/27			Exam 3 NLT 11:59pm 7/27

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com>].

Username: Your MyCT username (xx123 or everything before the "@" in your MyCT e-mail address) Password: Your MyCT password

Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select "Chat with Canvas Support," submit a support request through "Report a Problem," or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

Other Technology Support

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central.

24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu

Phone: (254) 519-5466

[Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>]

Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

Drop Policy.

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete a [Drop Request Form](https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf) [https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf].

Professors cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed, signed and returned. Once you return the signed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

Academic Integrity.

Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be reported to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

Academic Accommodations.

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier free education. The Department of Access and

Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the University's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Department of Access and Inclusion at (254) 501-5831. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html) webpage [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html].

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. For more information, please visit <https://www.tamuct.departments/index.php>. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines online](#), please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender – including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Division of Student Affairs at 254-501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

Tutoring.

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both on-campus and online. On-campus subjects tutored include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, or any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at 254-519-5796, or by emailing Dr. DeEadra Albert-Green at deeadra.albertgreen@tamuct.edu.

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log-in and receive FREE online tutoring and writing support. This tool provides tutoring in over forty subject areas. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

University Writing Center: Located in 416 Warrior Hall, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University-Central Texas is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students from 10am-5pm Monday-Thursday with satellite hours in the University Library Monday-Thursday from 6:00-9:00pm. Students may arrange a one-on-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by visiting the UWC during normal operating hours (both half-hour and hour sessions are available) or by making an appointment via [WConline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) at [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu to schedule an online tutoring session. Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process.

While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the University Writing Center is here to help!

If you have any questions about the University Writing Center, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu.

University Library.

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 72,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On-campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available twenty-four hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](https://tamuct.libguides.com/) [https://tamuct.libguides.com/].

OPTIONAL POLICY STATEMENTS:

A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php) [https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php].

INSTRUCTOR POLICIES.

This course will be completely online using the Canvas system. Canvas will also be used to upload your course work. Course materials, and Module quizzes. (Information about the quizzes are posted on Canvas). Students are to adhere to deadlines for submission of assignments as stated in each assignment description or syllabus. **There is no tolerance for late submissions, students must work within deadlines.** All online work submitted for class MUST be submitted through the Assignment links on Canvas; no work submitted by email will be accepted unless arranged with me beforehand. Class will include class discussions and other individual work.

Participation in class is a priority. Waiting until just before an assignment is due to complete, one may find himself/herself missing the deadline. Although this is an online class, regularly logging on

to the website is required to ensure that you have all the information needed to complete the various assignments.

Copyright Notice.

Students should assume that all course material is copyrighted by the respective author(s). Reproduction of course material is prohibited without consent by the author and/or course instructor. Violation of copyright is against the law and Texas A&M University-Central Texas' Code of Academic Honesty. All alleged violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

Copyright. (YEAR) by (FACULTY NAME) at Texas A&M University-Central Texas, (FACULTY COLLEGE); 1001 Leadership Place, Killeen, TX 76549; 254-(FACULTY COLLEGE PHONE); Fax 254-(FACULTY COLLEGE FAX); (FACULTY EMAIL)