

PSYC 4303-115 ANIMAL BEHAVIOR
Summer 2021
Texas A&M University-Central Texas

COURSE DATES, MODALITY, AND LOCATION

06/07 – 07/30, 2021

This is a 100% online course and uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>].

INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Simone Alvarez, Sc.D.

Office: N/A

Phone: N/A

Email: simone.alvarez@tamuct.edu or Canvas inbox

Office Hours

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

Student-instructor interaction

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

WARRIOR SHIELD

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

Warrior Shield 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 Warrior Shield through their myCT email account.

Connect to Warrior Shield by [911Cellular](https://www.tamuct.edu/police/911cellular.html) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/police/911cellular.html>] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in Warrior Shield, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Overview and description

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 Objective

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

1. have content-specific knowledge of animal behavior (*Chapter exams, final exam*)
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 (*Discussion posts, homework, literature review*)
3. become familiar with the major terms and theories associated with the study of animal behavior (*homework*)

Required Reading and Textbook(s)

Dugatkin, L. A. (2020). *Principals of Animal Behavior*. (4th Ed.). The University of Chicago Press
ISBN: 978-0-226-44838-1 (paper)
ISBN: 978-0-226-44841-1 (e-book)

Recommended Reading

American Psychological Association. (2019). *Publication manual of the American psychological association* (7th ed.). Washington, DC: Author. (ISBN: 978-1-4338-3216-1)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

What you will be graded on:

Chapter Exams: 100 Total Points

There will be a total of four chapter exams during this course. Each exam is worth 25 points. 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). 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: 50 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 send your topic to me for approval in Canvas (not e-mail). The resulting paper should be 4 – 6 pages excluding cover sheet and references. Additional guidelines will be posted in a separate document on Canvas.

Homework: 50 Total Points

There will be a total of five homework assignments posted in the weekly Canvas modules. Students should work on these assignments individually. Each assignment is worth ten points. More information on grading rubric can be found in the homework instructions in Canvas.

Discussion Posts: 50 Total Points

You will post and respond to five discussions during the semester. You 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 assignment in Canvas. Each discussion is worth ten points (The initial introductory post is worth 6 points, each of the two responses to your classmates is worth 2 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.

Final Exam: 50 Total Points

A comprehensive final examination that includes all content discussed in the course will be available during final exam week. The exam is worth 50 points. You may use your book and notes when taking the exam. However, using internet resources and/or working with another individual to complete the exam constitute academic dishonesty

and will result in failure of the exam and potentially other academic consequences.

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 in 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

<u>Graded Assignments</u>	<u># Due</u>	<u>Points Each</u>	<u>Points Total</u>	<u>% of Overall Grade</u>
Chapter exams	4	25	100	33%
Discussion & replies	5	10	50	17%
Literature review	1	50	50	17%
Homework	5	10	50	17%
Final exam	1	50	50	17%
			300	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>
270 - 300	A	Excellent	90-100%
240 - 269	B	Good	80-89%
210 - 239	C	Fair	70-79%
180 - 209	D	Passing	60-69%
< 180	F	Failing	59% or below

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR
Complete Course Calendar

Week	Chapter	Topic	Assignment due
Week 0 Getting started		Establish library access from home. Identify at least two computers w/internet access that you can use for class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Familiarize yourself with the class requirements and assignments. Get to know each other 😊. Ask questions if you need to. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To stay on track, check off completed work
Week 1 6/7 - 6/13	1, 2	Principals of Animal Behavior. The Evolution of Behavior.	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion #1 due 6/10 at 11:59pm <input type="checkbox"/> Homework #1 due 6/13 at 11:59pm
Week 2 6/14 - 6/20	3, 4	Proximate Factors I Neurobiology and Hormones. Proximate Factors II Development and Molecular Genetics.	<input type="checkbox"/> Homework #2 due 6/20 at 11:59pm <input type="checkbox"/> Exam #1 due 6/20 at 11:59pm
Week 3 6/21 - 6/27	5, 6	Learning. Cultural Transmission.	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion #2 due 6/27 at 11:59pm <input type="checkbox"/> Homework #3 due 06/27 at 11:59pm
Week 4 6/28 - 7/4	7, 8	Sexual Selection. Mating Selection.	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion #3 due 7/4 at 11:59pm <input type="checkbox"/> Exam #2 due 7/4 at 11:59pm <input type="checkbox"/> Lit Review Topic due 7/4 at 11:59pm
Week 5 7/5 - 5/11	9,10	Kinship. Cooperation.	<input type="checkbox"/> Homework #4 due 7/11 at 11:59pm <input type="checkbox"/> Homework #5 due 7/11 at 11:59pm
Week 6 7/12 - 7/18	11,12	Foraging. Antipredator Behavior.	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion #4 due 7/18 at 11:59pm <input type="checkbox"/> Exam #3 due 7/18 at 11:59pm <input type="checkbox"/> Lit Review due NLT 11:59pm 7/18
Week 7 7/19 – 7/25	13,14	Communication. Habitat Selection, Territoriality, and Migration.	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion #5 due 7/25 at 11:59pm <input type="checkbox"/> Exam #4 due 7/25 at 11:59pm <input type="checkbox"/> Animal Communication Activity (Extra credit)
Week 8 7/26 - 7/30	15,16 <u>Not 17</u>	Aggression. Play.	<input type="checkbox"/> Final exam due NLT 11:59pm 7/30

Important University Dates

<https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/academic-calendar.html>

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. **We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.**

Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email 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.

Online Proctored Testing

A&M-Central Texas uses Proctorio for online identity verification and proctored testing. This service is provided at no direct cost to students. If the course requires identity verification or proctored testing, the technology requirements are: Any computer meeting the minimum computing requirements, plus web camera, speaker, and microphone (or headset). Proctorio also requires the Chrome web browser with their custom plug in.

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 the [Drop Request](#) Dynamic

Form through Warrior Web.

[<https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/casAuthentication.ashx?InstID=eaed95b9-f2be-45f3-a37d-46928168bc10&targetUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2Fsubmit%2FForm%2Fstart%2F53b8369e-0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612>].

Faculty 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. Once you submit the completed 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, working with others in an unauthorized manner, 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 referred 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.

For more [information regarding the Student Conduct process](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html),

[<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html>].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a report](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0), [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0].

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 Office 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 Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our [Access & Inclusion](#) Canvas page (log-in required) [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717>]

Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related 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. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html>]. 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 Associate Dean in 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, on a remote online basis. Visit the Academic Support Community in Canvas to view schedules and contact information. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors will return at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111 in the Fall 2020. Student success coaching is available online upon request.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, success coaching, or have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 501-5836, visit the Office of Student Success at 212F Warrior Hall, or by emailing studentsuccess@tamuct.edu .

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas except writing support. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

University Writing Center

The University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (TAMUCT) is a free service open to all TAMUCT students. For the Summer 2020 semester, all services will be online as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours online Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. This summer, the UWC is also offering hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays starting June 27th and ending July 18th.

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 UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by making an appointment via [WCOOnline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC and/or need any assistance with scheduling.

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 85,000 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 24 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](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index].

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/compliance/titleix.html) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html>].

Behavioral Intervention

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, who are exhibiting concerning behaviors, or individuals causing a significant disruption to our community, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern shows you care. You can complete the [referral](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2) online [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the [Behavioral Intervention Team](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html) website for more information [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html>]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5800.

OTHER POLICIES

#Professor reserves the right to amend the syllabus at any time#