COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Semester course 1 credits. Prerequisites: BIOL 300, BIOL 310 and BIOL 317 with minimum grades of C; and senior standing. Enrollment restricted to biology majors. Students read assigned topical papers before class, prepare critical analyses, discuss and debate selected positions.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
1. Lay base foundation for the study of animal behavior.
2. Review selected foundational and current literature in animal behavior.
3. Use new foundation and previous biology education to evaluate current papers in animal behavior
4. Compose short papers summarizing topics covered in class and read outside of class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
1. Readings: This capstone is reading intensive in that you will be expected to read papers for each class and come prepared to class having either written a summary or prepared to present topics as required by the schedule.
2. Class Presentations/Participation: Students will be expected to present two (2) scientific papers from the literature. All papers for the class must be chosen by the Friday, May 24th to give all students enough time to read the papers. One paper must be considered “foundational” (see below) and one must be considered "current". A current paper must have been published within the last 5 years (since 2014). For each presentation, each student is expected to lead a 25-minute discussion on the paper with the class (4 per class). This discussion should be much more than a general summary of the paper – it should include critically thinking about the methods, the analyses, and the conclusions of the paper. All students are expected to engage in these discussions and incorporate material from their previous education and the previous discussions. This requires not only thoughtfull listening to the discussion but the contribution to the discussion in the form of voicing opinions, clarifying points, asking appropriate questions of a senior level course, making comparisions, drawing conclusions, disagreeing with appropriately scientifically defended points, and the like.
3. Summary Papers: All summaries should be submitted via Blackboard. All students must submit summaries of the following papers:
   - Foundations of Animal Behavior Part 1: Historical Origins (Galef)
   - Foundations of Animal Behavior Part 2: The Emerging Science (Drickamer and Snowdon)
   - On aims and methods of Ethology (N. Tinbergen)
These papers can be found in Blackboard unider “First Readings”
Students will also be required to submit a summary of an additional eleven (11) readings of the primary literature discussed in class. These may not be a paper presented by that student. Otherwise, the papers chosen for summary are entirely up to the individual student, however summaries are due at the beginning of class in which the paper is discussed. No late work will be accepted.

Point Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper Presentations</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper Summaries</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>160</td>
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</tbody>
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Total: 400 points

GRADING:

A  90-100
B  80-89
C  70-79
D  60-69
F  59 and below

CLASS POLICIES:

1. Attendance: As this is a summer course, attendance is mandatory for this class. Missing more than two days will result in an automatic failing grade for the course.

2. Course Set Up: Except for the first day of class, the class will be discussing the papers we read. No more than two papers will be discussed per day. From time to time, there might be a mini lecture as needed to better understand the literature being read.

3. Communication: My preferred method of communication with students (other than in person) is via email. Having said this, I will respond to emails as quickly as my schedule allows. Therefore, you should not delay in writing an email to me that may be time-sensitive. Further, each student should identify himself or herself in the email and in which class they are enrolled. Failure to do this may delay your response or result in an unanswered email. If you choose to call, I am only guaranteed (unless otherwise specified) to be in my office during the posted office hours, however if I am in my office, feel free to stop in.

FOUNDATIONAL PAPERS/COLLECTIONS:

EDITED BY LYNNE D. HOUCK AND LEE C. DRICKAMER
http://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/F/bo3629491.html'

Altruism & Kin Selection
Classic Empirical studies on Altruism & Kin Selection

Classic Empirical studies on Reciprocal Altruism, Limited-Control & Concession Models

Eusociality & The Return of Group Selection

Sexual Selection

Communication

**Animal Cognition (Cognitive Ethology)**


**Evolutionary Psychology**


**Integrative Approaches**


**Statements for Syllabi and Blackboard Pages**

Students should visit [http://go.vcu.edu/syllabus](http://go.vcu.edu/syllabus) and review all syllabus statement information. The full university syllabus statement includes information on safety, registration, the VCU Honor Code, student conduct, withdrawal and more.