OVERVIEW: Animal Behavior is a graduate lecture/laboratory course designed for students in biology and related scientific disciplines that have not had an undergraduate course in Animal Behavior or Ethology. Topics include the behavior of invertebrate and vertebrate animals in an evolutionary context, evaluating changes in behavior as adaptations to an organism’s environment.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Understanding how different approaches of investigation offer different perspectives, and the role of controversy in promoting and inhibiting scientific advances.
- Contrasting sensory modes and the different perceptual worlds of animals; the advantages and disadvantages of different sensory modes in orientation and communication.
- Learn features of Sociobiology (the adaptiveness of living in groups) and the controversy accompanying the appearance of this discipline.
- Being able to apply historical aspects of behavioral development (including studies on the behavior of fossils), to the application of these principles in the study of human behavior.
- Appreciate the evolution of behavior with respect to the environment, and be able to use this knowledge as a research tool.

LECTURES: Lectures present broad concepts to be elaborated upon by outside reading.

The text is:


Some class periods will allow for direct observation, experimentation, and/or demonstrations of behavioral phenomena. Also, a project involving independent study will be required.

COURSE GRADE: The final course mark will be computed as an average of:

- Two lecture examinations Marks: 200
- Oral Presentation Marks: 100
- Project Marks: 100
- Total Marks Possible 400

<60 = F; 60-69 = D; 70-79 = C; 80-89 = B, >90 = A
Disability and Veterans’ Services: Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is committed to providing persons with disabilities an equal opportunity to access campus facilities, resources and programs. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. Support and accommodations are also available for returning veterans who experience cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus. Our Office of Disability Services arranges such support and academic accommodations. To make a request, or for more information, call (361) 825-5816 or visit Driftwood 101. It is important to contact the Office of Disability Services in a timely fashion as it will take time for them to review requests and prepare accommodations and accommodation letters.

Grade Appeals: As stated in the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi University Rules and Procedures (Section B [Academic Program], Part 13 [Students]: 13.02.99.C2 [Student Grade Appeals] and 13.02.99C2.01 [Student Grade Appeal Procedures]), a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is on the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, consult the University Rules and Procedures specified above (accessible through the University Rules and Procedures website at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.
BIOL. 4411 ANIMAL BEHAVIOR CLASS SCHEDULE: Summer Session II, 2012

The sequence of topics and chapter readings in the may change due to circumstances. This schedule is to serve only as a broad guide to the order and time of presentation.

July
09 Syllabus, Literature, Definitions, and Paradigms
10 Instinct and Learning: Concepts
11 Sensory Modes: Vision
12 Audition
13 LAB 1 – Vision Exercises, Project Requirements, Presentation Topics
16 Olfaction, Tactile Modes
17 Physiological Mechanisms, Orientation, Rhythmicity
18 Videos
19 EXAM I
20 LAB 2 – Sensory Tests, Project Proposals
23 Sociobiology I
24 Sociobiology II
25 Fossil Behavior I
26 Fossil Behavior II
27 LAB 3 – Project Time
30 Behavioral Ecology
31 Human Ethology

Aug
01 Presentations
02 Presentations
03 LAB 4 – Presentations
06 Presentations
07 Reportbacks
08 FINAL EXAM
09 Final Meeting