

EEB 129: Animal Behavior Summer Session C 2009

Professor

Dr. Renata Durães

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Teaching Assistants

Ben Rossi

Discussion Sections 1A & 1C
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Iris Wong

Discussion Sections 1B
Office location: La Kretz Hall, 300-F
Office hours: Fri, 1-2pm
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Lecture

Mon, Wed, Fri 11:00 – 12:20pm Botany 325

Discussion Sections

1A	Tues, Thur	11:00 – 12:50	Botany 109
1B	Tues, Thur	3:00 – 4:50	Botany 109
1C	Mon, Wed	3:00 – 4:50	Botany 109

Text

J. Alcock *Animal Behavior, Eight edition*

Course website

<http://www.lsic.ucla.edu/classes/summer09/>

Lecture Schedule

(Week) Date	#		Topic
(1) August 3	1	Monday	INTRODUCTION
(1) August 5	2	Wednesday	PROXIMATE APPROACHES
(1) August 7	3	Friday	SOCIALITY I
(2) August 10	4	Monday	SOCIALITY II
(2) August 12	5	Wednesday	SOCIALITY III
(2) August 14	6	Friday	SEX & SPERM COMPETITION
(3) August 17	7	Monday	SEXUAL SELECTION & MATING SYSTEMS I
(3) August 19	8	Wednesday	SEXUAL SELECTION & MATING SYSTEMS II **Review Session 5 – 7 pm**
(3) August 21	9	Friday	MID-TERM EXAM
(4) August 24	10	Monday	COGNITION
(4) August 26	11	Wednesday	SIGNALS & COMUNICATION I
(4) August 28	12	Friday	SIGNALS & COMUNICATION II
(5) August 31	13	Monday	MOVEMENT
(5) September 2	14	Wednesday	Guest Lecture
(5) September 4	15	Friday	Guest Lecture
(6) September 7	16	Monday	LABOR DAY – NO CLASS
(6) September 9	17	Wednesday	BEHAVIOR & CONSERVATION **Review Session 5 – 7 pm**
(6) September 11	18	Friday	FINAL EXAM

Discussion Section Schedule

(Week) Dates	#	Topic	Paper(s) for Discussion
(1)Aug 3-4	1	Introduction & Overview	None
(1)Aug 5-6	2	<i>NO MEETING</i>	None
(2)Aug 10-11	3	Quiz 1 Paper Critique 1: Studying Behavior using the Comparative Method	Burns Evolution 1998 Swaddle et al. Behav. Ecol. 2000
(2)Aug 12-13	4	Lab Practical 1: Reciprocal Altruism	None
(3)Aug 17-18	5	Quiz 2 Paper Critique 2: Costs & Benefits of Sociality	Langen & Rabenold Behav. Ecol. 1994 Liker & Bókony PNAS 2009
(3)Aug 19-20	6	**Review for Mid-term Exam**	None
(4)Aug 24-25	7	Quiz 3 Paper Critique 3: Sperm Competition	Snow & Andrade Behav. Ecol. 2004 Cornwallis & Birkhead Am. Nat. 2007
(4)Aug 26-27	8	Lab Practical 2: Social networks	None
(5)Aug 31- Sept 1	9	Quiz 4 Paper Critique 4: Acoustic Communication	Barber & Conner PNAS 2007 Corcoran et al. Science 2009
(5)Sept 2-3	10	Lab Practical 3: Facial Symmetry	None
(6)Sept 7-8	11	<i>LABOR DAY</i>	None
(6)Sept 9-10	12	**Review for Final Exam**	None

Course Overview

Welcome to EEB 129: Animal Behavior. This is an advanced course in animal behavior that presumes working knowledge of the concepts covered in EEB 100: An introduction to ecology and behavior. In this course we will focus on exploring, in more detail, selected topics in behavior. Your instructor will be Dr. Renata Durães, who conducts active research in the field of animal behavior, with a particular focus in the mating behavior of rain forest birds in South America. Your two teaching assistants are Ben Rossi, a graduate student interested in sexual conflict and sexual harassment on solitary bees, and Iris Wong, a recent UCLA graduate with a major in Biology.

We have as a goal to get you thinking critically about how the study of animal behavior is currently conducted, to help you to understand evolutionary causes and consequences of animal behavior, to help develop your written and verbal communication skills, understand simple quantitative models, and, most of all, to stimulate your enthusiasm about this fascinating topic.

In addition to two exams (each covering half the course), you will be expected to read and critique primary literature for discussion sections; to answer short quizzes about assigned papers; and to participate in hands-on lab practicals in discussion sections. More detail on each of these aspects of the class is below.

Readings

We assume that you still own Alcock, the text for EEB 100. You should regularly use Alcock for background information for lecture topics. In addition, we will provide primary literature on the course website that you are expected to read and to understand. These readings will be a major part of most week's discussion sections (see below) and will be referenced on exams. Thus, the reading and comprehension of the primary literature papers is an important part of this course. We will also provide supplemental reading, which is for your interest and is not required. You are expected to have a BOL account number so that you can access the class website.

Lectures

Lectures will often depart from Alcock, so attending lectures and understanding the lecture material is essential if you want to do well in this class. PowerPoint slides will be posted in the class website at least 24 hours before the class. With exception of the first class, where we will hand out PowerPoint slides in class, you are expected to print them before hand if you want to have them available for notes during class. We strongly urge you to come to class, pay attention, and take good notes. If you miss a lecture you should try to get notes from a classmate so that you understand what was discussed. Please don't ask your TAs for copies of their notes.

Discussion Sections

Discussion sections meet twice a week for one hour and fifty minutes. During these times, teaching assistants will be available to review key topics from lecture and readings. During exam weeks, one full discussion section will be dedicated to review. However, we also have two major activities planned for discussion sections: critiques of primary literature and lab practicals. Below we provide an overview of each of these aspects of discussion sections.

Primary Literature critiques: In the first meeting of the quarter, Teaching Assistants will give a primer on how to successfully critique a paper (also available from the course website). Then, between weeks 2 and 5, the first section of the

week will be devoted to discussion of primary literature – that is, peer-reviewed research papers that have been published in scientific journals. You will be expected to read TWO papers for each section. Papers will be made available on the course website and should be downloaded from there. You should read BOTH papers BEFORE the section begins, and be read to discuss them during the section. All students are expected to participate in discussions and will be evaluated on that. At the beginning of the section, before the discussion begins, you will be asked to answer a short quizz on these papers. Remember that the exams may contain questions related to the assigned papers.

Lab Practicals: We have prepared three lab practicals, which will take place during discussion sections as indicated on the schedule below. Our hope is that these practicals will be instructive in teaching you some more advanced and/or practical aspects of animal behavior that are not covered in lectures. Your grade from this part of the Discussion section will be based on your involvement in the practicals. Although you will not receive grades for each practical, you will be assessed on your participation in the practicals and on your turning in relevant worksheets at the end of each practical.

Grading

Discussion Attendance & Participation:	100 points
Quizzes (4 x 50):	200 points
Mid-term Exam:	350 points
<u>Final Exam:</u>	<u>350 points</u>
TOTAL:	1,000 points

Discussion section is worth a total of 300 points (attendance, participation and quizzes combined), each of the two exams is worth 350 points, for a total of 1,000 points possible. If the class mean is 75% or higher, letter grades will be based on a straight percentage of the 1000-point maximum (i.e., 90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 60-69% = D, <60% = F). Within each letter grade, a minus (-) will be assigned to the bottom three percentage points and a plus (+) will be assigned to the top three percentage points (e.g., 80-82.9% is a B- and 87-89.9% is a B+). If the class mean is lower than 75%, we will lower the cutoffs appropriately to compensate (e.g., a 88% might become an A-, but this depends entirely upon the final distribution of grades).

NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES, EXAMS or EXTRA CREDIT ASSIGNMENTS! Please make sure that you do not have a schedule conflict with the test dates, as there are no exceptions to this policy.

Exams: Both the mid-term and final exams will combine multiple choice, true/false, and short answer/essay questions. Both exams will be of similar format and length and will contribute evenly to your overall grade. The final exam will cover ONLY THE LAST HALF OF THE COURSE. Both exams will be given in the normal classroom at the normal class times.

You will be allowed to bring one note card (up to 3 x 5 inches) with information that you write on it to each exam; you may write or type on both sides of the card. You will be required to turn in your note card with your exam. No electronic devices or other notes will be permitted.

A review session will be held the Wednesday evening before each exam (i.e., August 19 and September 9) in a room to be announced. Please be sure to come with questions to these review sessions; when there are no more questions we will end the session.

Study Tips: Tests may include any material included in lecture, discussion or assigned readings. However, you should pay special attention to lecture material and to papers covered in discussion section. Tests will emphasize concepts (theories) and approaches (methods) and you will likely be asked to apply your knowledge of general concepts or approaches to novel situations.

Dropping the Course: If you perform poorly in this course, the grade you receive could prevent you from graduating or getting into a professional school. If you are failing the course, it may be in your best interests to drop the course before the final exam. Do not wait until the last minute to get my signature on the drop form. After I sign the form, you are not obligated to turn it in (if you change your mind). Do not wait until after the final exam to drop the course – it will be too late!

Plagiarism Warning: Any student who submits work that appears to have been copied from another student's work will have their case immediately forwarded to the Dean of Students Office for disciplinary action. The same policy is in effect for plagiarism from the scientific literature and the Internet. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please take a look at the following website:
<http://www.library.ucla.edu/yrl/referenc/plagiarism.htm>