Course description:

Number and title: BIOL 3375 (CRN 26007), Animal Behavior

Credit hours: 3.0 semester credit hours

Catalog description: This course will focus on observations of animal behaviors and introductory analysis of their adaptive value and evolution. This course will also include a comparative study of mechanisms, ontogeny, function, and evolution of behavior in its ecological and social contexts.

Course prerequisite: BIOL1108/L with a C or higher.

Computer Requirement: Each CSU student is required to have ready access throughout the semester to a notebook computer that meets faculty-approved hardware and software requirements for the student's academic program. Students will sign a statement attesting to such access. For further information on CSU's Official Notebook Computer Policy, please go to http://itpchoice.clayton.edu/policy.htm.
Computer skill prerequisites: You must be able to use Windows, Microsoft Word, Outlook Express (including attaching and retrieving files via e-mail), a Web browser, Adobe Acrobat Reader, and Microsoft Excel.

In class use of Student Notebook Computers

Computers may be used for some in-class activities, and students will use their computers outside of class for class assignments, to access the internet, and to communicate with the instructor. Computers may only be used during class when specified by the instructor; use of a computer during any other time is forbidden and will result in a loss of points. During times when computers are permitted, students who are found using their computer for activities not related to the course (including, but not limited to checking email, web surfing, instant messaging, etc.) will have their computer confiscated for the remainder of the class period and will NOT be allowed to use the computer in class in the future. This same limitation applies to the use of any other electronic devices in class (including, but not limited to cell phones, personal digital assistants, etc.).

Course objectives:

- To understand science as a process of inquiry.
- To be able to develop and test scientific hypotheses relating to the topics in the course.
- To describe the different types of behaviors that animals display.
- To understand the evolutionary explanations for those behaviors.

Outcomes:

- Biology Outcomes:

  BIOL3375 supports outcomes 1, 4, 5, and 7 of the biology
major.

- 1. Students will display knowledge of the basic principles of major fields of biology. This course provides background in animal behavior.
- 4. Students will be able to communicate orally and in writing in a clear, concise manner.
- 5. Students will demonstrate the ability to collect, evaluate and interpret scientific data, and employ critical thinking to solve problems in biological science.

Term:

Spring 2008

Instructor information:

Dr. Stephen Burnett
phone: 678-466-4774
fax: 678-466-4899
e-mail: sburnett@clayton.edu
internet address: http://a-s.clayton.edu/burnett/

Office: Arts and Sciences Building, G110F

Office hours: 3-5 pm Mondays, 9-11:30 am and 1:30-3 pm on Thursdays, some lab times, and other times by appointment. During office hours, I may be found in either my office (A&S G110F), the Biology lab rooms (C23, C29, or C32) or in the Biology research rooms (C60 or C62). If I am not in my office, I will leave a note on my door indicating where I am. I am also available during some lab times and by appointment outside of my office hours.

Class meetings: Classes will meet in the Technology Building room 116 from 9:30 am to 10:20 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and
Friday.

Textbook information:

Required texts:


Evaluation and grading:

Tentatively, the points will be distributed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 exams (50 pts each)</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Assignments</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class project</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>final examination, comprehensive</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>400</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>360-400 (90-100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>320-359 (80-89%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>280-319 (70-79%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>240-279 (60-69%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 240 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mid-term Progress Report

The mid-term grade in this course which will be issued by
February 26th, reflects approximately 20% of the entire course grade. Based on this grade, students may choose to withdraw from the course and receive a grade of "W." Students pursuing this option must fill out an official withdrawal form, available in the Office of the Registrar or online, by mid-term, which occurs on February 29th.

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**Course schedule**

The course schedule is listed on a separate page. Be sure to check it often to keep track of any changes in the due dates of assignments and exams during the semester. **Due dates for assignments may be changed at the instructor's discretion.** You are responsible for keeping track of due dates and turning in your work when it is required.

Please note that the schedule is tentative and the dates of the exams and the chapters that each exam will cover are tentative and subject to change. Exam dates are not set until they are announced in class.

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**Course policies:**

**General policies**

Students must abide by policies in the Clayton State University [Student Handbook](http://a-s.clayton.edu/burnett/old_courses/2008-01/BIOL3375/BIOL3375syllabus.pdf). Students are also expected to abide by the guidelines in the "[Basic Student Responsibilities](http://a-s.clayton.edu/burnett/old_courses/2008-01/BIOL3375/BIOL3375syllabus.pdf)" document.

Visitors (friends, children, etc.) are strictly prohibited from attending class without the permission of the instructor.

No smoking, eating or drinking is permitted at any time in the classroom.

**Academic integrity**

Cheating in any form will not be tolerated; all work that you
turn in **must** be in your own words and **must** be your own work. If your brainpower did not generate what you turn in, it is considered cheating. The following are examples of cheating: copying the work of another person, allowing another person to do your assignment, sharing your work with another student, working in a group on a graded item, copying or closely paraphrasing referenced sources, falsifying any information provided on course assignments, using anything but your brainpower on an exam, etc. **Cheating in any form will result in a zero on the assignment for all students involved and academic misconduct forms will be filed with the Office of Judicial Affairs for any violation.** Judicial procedures are described on the [webpage of the Office of Judicial Affairs](http://a-s.clayton.edu/DisruptiveClassroomBehavior.htm).

**Disruption of the Learning Environment**

Behavior that disrupts the teaching-learning process during class activities will not be tolerated. This includes belligerent, abusive, profane, and/or threatening behavior. A student who fails to respond to reasonable faculty direction regarding classroom behavior and/or behavior while participating in classroom activities may be dismissed from class. If dismissed from class, the student is still responsible for the material covered during the missed time, and may forfeit points that are given during the time he/she misses. A student who is dismissed is entitled to due process and will be afforded such rights as soon as possible following dismissal. If found in violation, a student may be administratively withdrawn and may receive a grade of WF. A more detailed description of examples of disruptive behavior and appeal procedures is provided at: [http://a-s.clayton.edu/DisruptiveClassroomBehavior.htm](http://a-s.clayton.edu/DisruptiveClassroomBehavior.htm)

**Attendance**

Attendance is expected at all class meetings. Attendance will be taken at each class meeting with the student's signature on the class roll. Quizzes and tests will be given at the beginning of the class; if you arrive late, you may be
permitted to take the quiz/exam as long as the materials have not been collected from the class. However, you will be required to turn in the assignment at the same time as the rest of the class - NO extra time will be given. Exceptions to this policy can be made only under extenuating circumstances and with a WRITTEN excuse or explanation for tardiness or absence. Some class assignments may be given during class time and absence from that class period will result in a zero for that class assignment. If you have an acceptable excuse, those points will not count in your grade.

Absences from tests must be accompanied by a note from a competent authority (doctor, judge, etc.). The excuse must specifically indicate the dates that are to be excused, must be presented upon the first class day that the student returns to school. In general I do not give makeup exams; instead, the points do not count in your final grade (which means that the remaining graded work will be responsible for a greater weight in determining your final grade). You are only permitted one excused absence from class exams. If you miss more than one with an excuse, you will receive a zero (0) for the second missed exam. In this case you will probably need to seek a hardship withdrawal as the exams are the majority of the points in the class. In addition, excuses will not be accepted for routine procedures (checkups, teeth cleanings, eye exams, etc). Students should not schedule such appointments for class times.

**Electronic devices**

All electronic devices including cell phones, PDA's, pagers, calculators, etc. are not allowed during exams or quizzes unless otherwise specified. During such activities, these devices are not permitted to be in your possession at all (which means they cannot be clipped to your belt, in your pocket, etc.). Unauthorized possession and/or use of these items during an exam or quiz will result in an **automatic** zero on the graded activity.
Late assignments

For class assignments, unless otherwise specified, all work is due in class on the due date. Any work that is turned in after the set time will be considered late and penalized 20%. Assignments will be penalized an additional 20% for each extra day late.

E-mail

Each student must activate his/her e-mail account at Clayton State University. The class list serve will be the only method for communicating with the class by email. Important announcements will be sent to the class on the class list serve. You should also check my web page regularly for new postings. Handouts given in class and other important items will be posted on the web page for this class.

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