

<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b> Dr. Lani Lyman-Henley <b>email:</b> <a href="mailto:dr_zot@yahoo.com">dr_zot@yahoo.com</a> (preferred) or <a href="mailto:Lani.Lyman-Henley@TAMUC.edu">Lani.Lyman-Henley@TAMUC.edu</a> <b>Office:</b> STC 237 (Science & Technology Center) <b>Animal Care Facility:</b> STC 254 <b>Course Website:</b> at eCollege ( <a href="http://online.tamuc.org">http://online.tamuc.org</a> ) <b>Office Hours:</b> MWF 10-11 & 1-1:45; email or use Virtual Office (at eCollege) anytime	<b>Cell phone:</b> 972-571-1042 (text ok) <b>Office Phone:</b> 903-886-5372 <b>ACF Phone:</b> 903-886-5249 <b>Home Phone:</b> 972-722-1568
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**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

*Animal Behavior*, 9<sup>th</sup> Ed. Alcock. ISBN-13: 978-0878932252

*Exploring Animal Behavior: Readings from American Scientist*, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. Sherman & Alcock. ISBN-13: 978-0878938155 ["S&A"]

**Note:** Texts may be available together for a discounted price; S&A is less expensive and articles may be found individually if you can access *Scientific American* articles.

**COURSE MEETING TIME (OPTIONAL):** MWF 11:00 – 11:50, TENTATIVE!

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** BSC 310. *Animal Behavior*. Three semester hours. An introduction to the principles of animal behavior with an emphasis on methods of observations and the proximate and ultimate causes of behavior. Aspects of physiology and development of behavior, instinct and learning, and modern cognitive ethology will be addressed.  
Prerequisites: BSc 1406, 1407 and/or 1413; BSc 301.

BSC 597. *Special Topics*. One to four semester hours. Organized class. May be repeated when topics vary. **\*\*This section of 597 is a 3-semester hour graduate level version of BSC 310\*\***

**UNDERGRADUATE VS. GRADUATE COURSE CREDIT:** This course is being offered at both the undergraduate (U) AND graduate (G) course credit level (see above for specific course numbers and catalog descriptions). The general breakdown of “points” will be the same for grading purposes although there will be higher grading standards and frequently additional portions of assignments required for graduate level students. These courses have a combined eCollege website to facilitate discussion, but be sure to note any assignment distinctions between U & G projects, dropbox locations, etc.

**COURSE FORMAT:** This is a “web-based” course- that is, you are not required to attend a lecture class. Instead, you submit all your graded work via our **eCollege** site- enter through your MyLeo page. Check the website frequently (I’d recommend daily!) for announcements, instructions, and discussion; the main means of communication will be in the eCollege discussion boards or via email. Try everything out early so you know that you can access everything. If you have difficulty with the material, talk to me *as soon as you can* for advice on how best to improve.

**Live Lectures:** This semester’s course had originally been designed as a face-to-face course, and I intend to give regular live lectures as scheduled, primarily for undergraduate students although all are invited. Obviously some students may be taking the course from a distance and unable to attend.. The time originally scheduled for lectures was MWF at 11, though

that may change based on student schedules. Location TBA.

**MATERIAL AND GRADING:** This course is partially self-paced: there are periods in which you need to complete given portions of the work, but you can schedule your specific work times as pleases you. The material for this class will be organized around content blocks. Please see the Topic folders in the Discussion Forum for guidance through specific materials. Each section will have a Commentary devoted to guiding you through the material to study- read that first, then work the assignments given as you study the material. Much of your work will be in the form of posting commentaries of your own to the Discussion boards, and responding to the postings of other students. The bulk of the work will be such discussion of your readings of the assigned materials, with a few Exercises, papers and “take-home” style tests (all of which will be detailed in separate handouts/postings). The nature of some of these exercises/assignments will be structured based on the student group in the class (for example, some in-person “lab exercises” may be offered if enough students could meet on campus for them). Final grades will be based on a 10% scale compared to the total points available in the class. Assume for now that about 1/3 of the points will be based each on discussion, exams, and papers/exercises.

**Late or Make-Up Work:** Since there are no sit-down exam periods, there really isn't any use for “make-up” work. All work will have a deadline posted; assignments MAY be accepted late, but will be penalized heavily on an increasing scale (the later it is, the more points it loses). Please contact me immediately if you are “absent” long enough to miss any due dates, but in general I strongly recommend planning ahead to avoid such problems. Extreme circumstances will always be taken into consideration- TALK TO ME before you assume anything.

#### **TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS\***

**WEEKS 1-5:** Introduction to Study of Animal Behavior & Methods; a brief History;  
Development and Neural & Hormonal control of Behavior  
**Alcock Readings: Ch. 1-5**  
**Exam 1**

**WEEK 6-10:** Predator & Prey, Location & Communication.  
**Alcock Readings: Ch. 6-9**  
**Exam 2**

**WEEK 11-15:** Reproductive & Social Behaviors; Beyond the basics.  
**Alcock Readings: Ch. 10-13 (14?)**  
**Exam 3 (Finals Week)**

\*This schedule is a general outline for your reference and is subject to change. Note that only the main textbook chapters have been listed; additional readings WILL be required (check website for specifics). Any changes will be announced in class (at the course website); you will be responsible for keeping up with them. *Note* that precise times of topics and reading assignments will be updated regularly at the eCollege page- you are responsible for keeping up with them.

## **OTHER NOTES (INCLUDING OFFICIAL UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS)**

It is the responsibility of the student to inform me of any problems you may have affecting your performance in class, be it due to professionally diagnosed disability, personal or work-related problems, or anything else that comes up, so that appropriate adjustments can be made.

### **Students with Disabilities:**

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. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services, Texas A&M University-Commerce**  
**Gee Library, Room 132, Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835, Fax (903) 468-8148**  
[StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)

### **Regarding student conduct**

“All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct.” Please be advised that students who are disruptive to class activities will be dropped from the class and may face further disciplinary action.

### **Plagiarism**

“*Plagiarism* is a criminal activity. You must cite all sources of information. Unreferenced copying of material, whether parts of sentences, whole sentences, paragraphs or entire articles, will result in a score of zero for your essay and can result in further disciplinary action.” Note that this is true throughout the University and we do have plagiarism-detecting software in place. Of special note in an online environment- “cut and paste” from websites without appropriate citation IS plagiarism, yet putting everything in quotation marks is not an acceptable alternative. You must learn to construct your own sentences with information you find (and changing a couple of words in a sentence or reordering sentences in a paragraph are not enough). If you have any questions about what is considered plagiarism or wish advice on avoiding it, please contact your instructor.

**RESOURCES:** There are a variety of resources at your disposal to aid with your studies in addition to your Mastering Biology account. This lecture is “Web Enhanced”- it has an *eCollege* site that you will be expected to use for several assignments; you can enter via your MyLeo account, or go directly to <http://online.tamuc.org> . There is also a wide variety of study aids available at the text's website, accessible through your MasteringBiology account.

You may also find useful the **Academic Success Center** services, which include tutoring and workshops (including such topics as “Managing Test Anxiety”): <http://web.tamuc.edu/studentLife/campusServices/academicSuccessCenter/default.aspx>

Try out these features early, while they have time to help you!

Additionally, here are a couple of other University links that you may find useful. First, the Final Exam schedule (which may also be useful for your other courses): <http://web.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/FinalExamScheduleFall2012.pdf>

And of course the Academic Calendar, which does include information regarding University holidays, deadlines to add, drop, withdraw, and other such activities:

<http://web.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/academicCalendars/20122013academiccalendar.pdf>

**STARTING NOTE:**

Since the website will not be available until the first day of class (August 27), I'm including some guidance here for those who'd like to get started on their reading before then. Oddly enough, we are going basically in the order the main text is organized in, so you can start at the beginning! Alcock Chapter 1 and 2 should give you ample reading until you have access to the class boards for discussion- I will be discussing some details of the history of Ethology as well. The second text (SA) won't be assigned in such neat order (you'll see!), but do start at the beginning there too- the first essay (by Wilson) is brief and very good. You may continue with the next 2 (longer!) if you wish, or save them for the first days of class.