

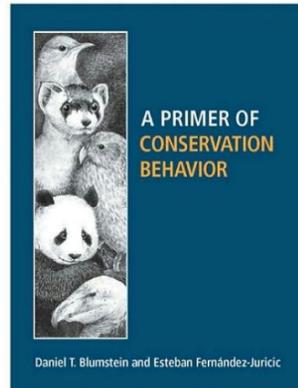
BSc 537 Behavior and Conservation

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Textbook Required:

Daniel Blumstein and Esteban Fernández-Juricic.
A Primer of Conservation Behavior.
ISBN 978-0-87893-401-0



Course Material:

This course requires an understanding of biological processes at the organismal level, particularly population genetics, evolution, and animal behavior. The course is about how we can use animal behavior to enhance and improve conservation strategies. You are going to be doing a lot of reading and must read comprehensively. Tests must be taken on the assigned dates and there will be no make-up tests. Tests are open book and will consist of critical thinking questions. All assignments must be turned in at the assigned time. There will be no tolerance of late assignments and there will be no extra credit assignments. **Be sure that you are familiar with the course schedule and keep on track.**



Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will know what conservation behavior is and what its objectives are.
2. Students will know how behavioral mechanisms are used to manipulate animal behavior.
3. Students will know how animals assess food, habitat, and mate choices and how these affect management decisions.
4. Students will understand how antipredator behaviors affect conservation strategies.
5. Students will know how communication systems are used in conservation plans.
6. Students will know what the demographic consequences of sexual selection and reproductive behaviors are.



There are 12 chapters in the course textbook and the course covers all of them. The course schedule is as follows. Details on assignments and tests are provided later in this syllabus and there is a calendar format of the schedule near the end of this syllabus.

Chapter

Chapter 1:
Chapter 2:
Chapter 3:
Chapter 4:
Chapter 5:
Chapter 6:

Review Due

February 6
February 13
February 20
February 27
March 6
March 20

Quiz Due

February 7 or 8
February 14 or 15
February 21 or 22
Feb. 28 or Mar. 1
March 7 or 8
March 21 or 22

Midterm test: Covers chapters 1-6		March 24 or 25
Chapter 7:	March 27	March 28 or 29
Chapter 8:	April 3	April 4 or 5
Chapter 9:	April 10	April 11 or 12
Chapter 10:	April 17	April 18 or 19
Chapter 11:	April 24	April 25 or 26
Chapter 12:	May 1	May 2 or 3
Article Review	May 1	
Final Exam: Covers all chapters		May 5 or 6

For each chapter, you will have to write a brief chapter review and there will be a chapter quiz. In addition, all students will complete an article review. A description of these assignments is provided below. The grading scheme will be as follows:

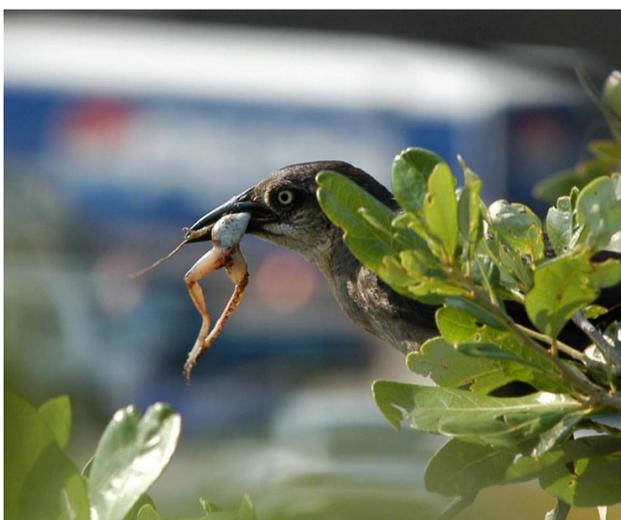
Grading Scheme:

Chapter Reviews	12 @ 2% each	24 %
Chapter Quizzes	12 @ 2% each	24 %
Tests	1 @ 15% each	15 %
Final Exam	1 @ 25% each	25 %
Article Review	1 @ 12% each	12 %
Total		100 %



Chapter Reviews

Chapter reviews will be based on the assigned book chapters and any supplemental readings provided with the chapter. For each chapter and the associated supplemental readings you will write, in your own words, a summary of the content of those materials. **Do not use any quotes.** You must highlight the major points covered by the chapter and the supplemental materials and how these points are relevant to understanding conservation behavior. **Close each review with a personal comment on what you thought about the material covered.** Your chapter reviews must be in MS-Word format and submitted by the due date indicated on the course eCollege page. Put your name in the file name of your review. Reviews must be written using Times New Roman, 12 point font, double spaced, no extra spaces between paragraphs, with 1" margins on all sides. Include a title page with your name and the title of the chapter you are reviewing. Your review should be **no less than three pages and no more than five pages**, not including the title page. **My experience shows that students who are closer to the 5-page limit tend to get higher grades because they cover the material more thoroughly.** Having said that, excessive verbosity and padding will get you nowhere. If you wish to include figures and tables, do so by appending them to the back of the review. Figures and tables do not count toward the page limit. All chapter reviews must be submitted through the Dropbox in eCollege.



Chapter Quizzes

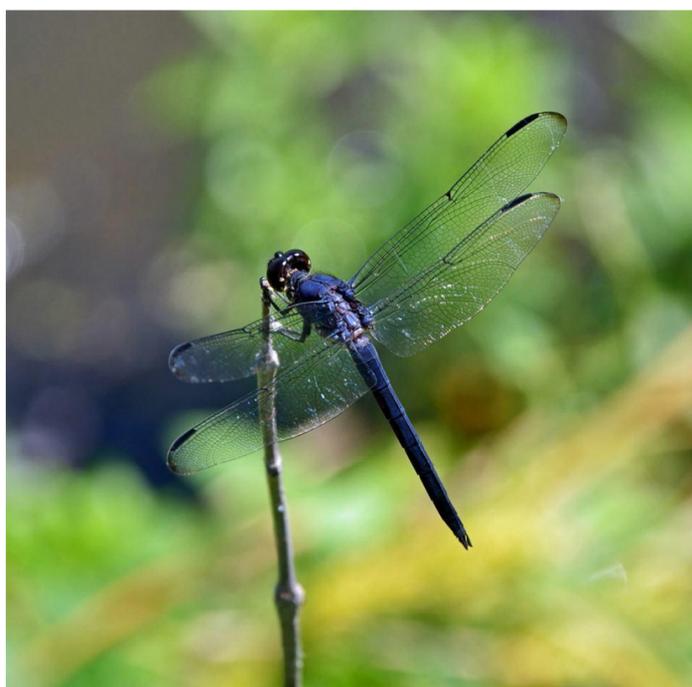
Each chapter will be followed by a chapter quiz. The chapter quiz will consist of 10 short answer questions. Quizzes will cover all material in the chapter, including information in figures and tables and including material from any supplemental reading that was assigned along with the chapter. Quizzes will be timed, and you will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. You will be expected to have full comprehension of the material. As a result, some questions will require that you apply concepts covered in the chapter to examples that are not specifically mentioned in the textbook or supplemental reading materials.

Article Reviews

During the semester you will select a current peer-reviewed article related to the material covered in the textbook. You will be required to write a review of this article. It is extremely important that you choose a peer-reviewed journal article. Review articles are acceptable, but again, must be professional reviews. To approach this assignment, flip through the various chapters in the textbook that are covered in the course. Find a topic that interests you and look for recent articles (2006 or more recent) on that subject. Google scholar can be most useful for this purpose. Once you have found an article, please let me know so that I can evaluate its suitability. **You need to do this early just in case you have to use an inter-library loan to get the article.**



Using your own words, describe the purpose of the article, the methods used (if applicable), and the major findings of the article. Describe the significance of the work to the field of study. In doing so, you should read some of the background articles related to the one you are reviewing. Make sure you cite these articles in your review. Also include your opinion on the value of the article and its level of interest to you. Your review must be in MS-Word format and submitted by the due date. Reviews must be written using Times New Roman, 12 point font, double spaced, no extra spaces between paragraphs, with 1" margins on all sides. Include a title page with your name and the title of the paper you are reviewing. **Your review should be no less than four pages and no more than 10 pages, not including the title page.** If you wish to include figures and tables, do so by appending them to the back of the review. Figures and tables do not count toward the page limit. All reviews must be submitted through the Dropbox in eCollege.



Final Exam

The final exam will be comprehensive. It will consist of 50 questions and you will have 2 hours to complete it. It will be based on the testbanks used for the chapter quizzes.

Below is the course schedule in calendar format:

Spring 2014

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				30	31	

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6 Chapter 1 Review Due	7 Chapter 1 Test	8 Chapter 1 Test
9	10	11	12	13 Chapter 2 Review Due	14 Chapter 2 Test	15 Chapter 2 Test
16	17	18	19	20 Chapter 3 Review Due	21 Chapter 3 Test	22 Chapter 3 Test
23	24	25	26	27 Chapter 4 Review Due	28 Chapter 4 Test	

March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Chapter 4 Test
2	3	4	5	6 Chapter 5 Review Due	7 Chapter 5 Test	8 Chapter 5 Test
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 Chapter 6 Review Due	21 Chapter 6 Test	22 Chapter 6 Test
23	24 Mid-term Test	25 Mid-term Test	26	27 Chapter 7 Review Due	28 Chapter 7 Test	29 Chapter 7 Test
30	31					

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Chapter 8 Review Due	4 Chapter 8 Test	5 Chapter 8 Test
6	7	8	9	10 Chapter 9 Review Due	11 Chapter 9 Test	12 Chapter 9 Test
13	14	15	16	17 Chapter 10 Review Due	18 Chapter 10 Test	19 Chapter 10 Test
20	21	22	23	24 Chapter 11 Review Due	25 Chapter 11 Test	26 Chapter 11 Test
27	28	29	30			

May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Chapter 12 Review Due Article Review Due	2 Chapter 12 Test	3 Chapter 12 Test
4	5 Final Exam	6 Final Exam	7	8	9	10

Obligatory Statements:

Plagiarism is a criminal activity. You must cite all sources of information. Copying of material, whether parts of sentences, whole sentences, paragraphs, or entire articles, will result in a score of zero for your assignment and can result in further disciplinary action.

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

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services,
Texas A&M University – Commerce,
Halladay Student Services Building,
Room 303 A/D,
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu**

All student 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.

Students who are disruptive to class activities will be dropped from the class and may face further disciplinary action.