



Syllabus: PSY 4513, Animal Behavior (5111/5365), Summer 2009

Instructor: Matthew Cole, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: Mondays 11-12PM via WIMBA Live Classroom and by appointment.

Required Course Text: Bolhuis, J. J., & Giraldeau, L. (Eds.). (2008). *The behavior of animals: Mechanisms, function, and evolution*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.

The book is available in the book store, from the [Publisher's Website](#), and on reserve in the Library (it cannot be checked out).

Course Description: This course provides a broad overview of the current state of animal behavior studies. As we study animal behavior, we will find ourselves discussing an exciting scientific discipline that is rich in debate. Much of the subject matter we will explore is fundamental to our understanding of biology and psychology as a whole. Some people study animal behavior to help solve problems that face human societies today. Others study comparative psychology because they are interested in improving the welfare and ethical treatment of nonhuman animals. Still others become behavioral biologists because they find the subject matter intrinsically appealing. The course approaches animal behavior across all levels of analysis, from molecules and neurons through to individuals and populations. Drawing on the principles formulated by Nobel laureate Niko Tinbergen, this course endorses an assumption that animal behavior is best understood through research on four related questions: causation, development, function, and evolution. As such, the overall theme of this course is evolutionary, showing how the different levels at which behavior can be studied ultimately relate to the consequences of behavior for the animal's reproductive success—*mechanism and development serve function through evolution*. This course will utilize a variety of teaching tools, such as the required course text, websites, pdf articles and streaming videos.

Grading: In addition to discussion board assignments happening weekly or every other week (33% of your course grade), the course is designed around module assignments (33% of your course grade), and one major term paper (33% of your course group).

*Discussion board assignments*—these will occur during each module and are due before the next module begins. The subject matter for each discussion will vary, will usually be unique from the learning asset for the module assignment, and may include pdf articles, pdf book chapters, streaming videos, websites, etc.

*Module assignments*—these will be based on the module's learning assets. The learning assets will be located in the module's Theory folder, and the assignment will be located in the module's Practice folder. Each learning asset will be comprised of a PowerPoint lecture and textbook chapters (to help you select your term paper chapter as described below). Occasionally, a learning asset will also contain a streaming video or PDF article.

*Term paper*—this is a formal academic paper, totaling at least 2000 words, *based on one of the chapters from the textbook*. You will pick the chapter that you want to write your term paper on. You can use any other primary sources that you can find through the Lawrence Tech library databases to supplement the textbook chapter: [http://ltu.edu/library/dblist\\_subject\\_psychology.asp](http://ltu.edu/library/dblist_subject_psychology.asp). The paper will be typed, double-spaced, and comply with the standards of LTU writing assignments in terms of grammar and language. I expect and require correct spelling. Use the Academic Achievement Center for help writing! The paper needs to conform to APA style. I will post a Word document template for you to use as your starting point,

as well as an example of an acceptable APA-style term paper. **The paper needs to be submitted via Blackboard's SafeAssign.** This will insure that you have not committed plagiarism (described in detail below). The paper will be graded and returned, with thoughtful written comments. The discussion for Module 3 will ask you to discuss your paper topic with your peers. This will help you to begin writing your paper during the week of June 8. A draft of your paper is due on June 29. The final paper is due on July 20.

## **ACADEMIC HONESTY IS REQUIRED.**

Please refer to the LTU Academic Honor Code:  
[http://www.ltu.edu/currentstudents/honor\\_code.asp](http://www.ltu.edu/currentstudents/honor_code.asp)

and in particular, the definition of plagiarism as quoted from the honor code:  
[http://www.ltu.edu/currentstudents/honor\\_code\\_offenses.asp](http://www.ltu.edu/currentstudents/honor_code_offenses.asp)

### **1. Plagiarism**

The term "PLAGIARISM" includes but is not limited to (a) the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work or creative and/or intellectual property in print, product, or digital media of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; (b) the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers, reports, or other academic materials; or (c) the appropriating, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any other means another person's work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one's own work. Plagiarism is unethical, since it deprives the true author of his/her rightful credit and then gives that credit to someone to whom it is not due. Examples include:

- **Quoting, paraphrasing, or summarizing written material, even a few phrases, without acknowledgment.**
- **Failing to acknowledge the source of either a major idea or an ordering principle central to one's own paper.**
- **Relying on another person's data, evidence, or critical method without credit or permission.**
- **Submitting another person's work as one's own.**
- **Using unacknowledged research sources gathered by someone else.**
- **Copying portions or outcomes of two- or three-dimensional creative property of previously published work.**
- **Copying items from Internet websites without acknowledgment of the source.**

SafeAssign will check all submitted papers against the internet, a reference library, and all papers previously submitted to SafeAssign. If you have plagiarized, ***very bad things will happen.*** At best, a 0 on the assignment; at worst, referral to the Department Chair/Dean and failure of the course (this will remain on your permanent transcript as "failure due to plagiarism" and cannot be removed).

Course Schedule: This fully online course begins with a practice module to help you familiarize yourself with the online learning environment. Each module is scheduled to start on a Monday and end on the Sunday prior to the next module. All assignments and discussions are due before the next module begins. Discussions are based on their own learning asset. Assignments are based on all the learning assets for the module.

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Module</b>	<b>Theory (Learning Asset)</b>	<b>Practice (Assignments)</b>
May 13 – May 17	Module 0	PowerPoint	M0 Discussion: <i>Introduce Yourself</i> Assignment 0
May 18 – May 24	Module 1	PowerPoint Text: <i>Forward, Chapter 1</i> PDF: <i>Cheng (2005)</i>	M1 Discussion: <i>Scopes Trial</i> Assignment 1
May 25 – June 7	Module 2	PowerPoint Text: Chapters 4, 5, 6, 8	M2 Discussion: <i>By Design</i> Assignment 2
June 8 – June 21	Module 3	PowerPoint Text: Chapters 9, 11, 13, 14	M3 Discussion: <i>Term Paper Topic</i> Assignment 3
June 22 – June 28	TBA	TBA	TBA
June 29 – July 5	TBA	TBA	TBA <b>Term Paper Draft Due</b>
July 6 – July 12	TBA	TBA	TBA
July 13 – July 19	TBA	TBA	TBA
July 20 – July 23		End of course evaluation	<b>Final Term Paper Due</b>