

Animal Behavior

Course Policies and Requirements

2023-2024

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Course Overview:

This course is designed to be an introduction to the various aspects and traits associated with animal behavior. Inasmuch as this is a one-semester course, it is impossible to cover all the facets and types of behavior exhibited by all animals. However, there are some behaviors that are more common than others and initially, we will focus on them.

All email communication with me must be through the student's school provided Gmail account. All documents shared with me must occur via the school provided Google-Doc account.

GHS Honor Code:

The Honor Code is in the Student Planner, and I fully expect all students to abide with it.

General Information:

- **Textbook:** There is **NO** textbook for this course. Students will receive numerous handouts throughout the course, as well as through materials on-line.
- **Notebook:** A three-ring binder is ***strongly suggested*** (I have some that students can have). This will be useful in organizing the numerous handouts, data sheets, outlines, and work sheets done in this class. A spiral notebook is required for taking notes in class. You are to have your school issued chrome book or a laptop with you every day. However, they are not to be used unless you are directed to do so.

- Upon arrival to class, your cell phones are to be “silenced” and either placed in your backpacks or in the class phone caddy for the duration of the class.
- Lab Work: Goggles are required and must be always worn during laboratory sessions.
- A large part of this class will consist of “fieldwork,” during which we will go outside to conduct our observations. We will go afield in varying weather conditions. You will be given advance notice, and it is your responsibility to dress appropriately.

Grading Policy and Homework:

Work is graded on a percentage policy.

Tests & Quizzes (Assessments) 50%
Homework/Classwork/Labs/Projects 50% (CW)

All students will be required to take a final examination in this course, which will account for 20% of the final grade. Seniors, you are not exempt.

There will be one or two quizzes and one major test per unit covered. Additionally, there will be numerous informational and data collection sheets handed out, which will be completed and submitted for each topical unit. It is imperative that students keep up and stay current with the class/homework material.

As mentioned above, one of the most important aspects of this class is to stay current with the material presented in class. It is very easy to get behind and playing catch-up is never easy. Please do not make the mistake of thinking that homework isn't important. If it weren't important, I wouldn't assign it.

All assigned work is to be submitted at the beginning of class on the date it is due.

Except for excused absences (i.e., quarantine, illness, school related/sponsored trips, etc.), late assignments will be marked down 10% for every day they are late. With

written homework assignments, I recommend you type them whenever possible, as my legibility policy is simple: “If I can’t read it . . . it’s wrong.”

Conduct, Rules & Expectations:

Students are expected to behave and conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with an upper-level high school elective class; you’re here because you want to be here. There is no place for inappropriate behavior in class, especially when in the field or during laboratory sessions where the risk of personal injury or damage to equipment is greatest. Misbehavior during lab sessions, will result in the immediate removal from class and referral to your house dean.

- Be on-time for class; even though we are at the outermost reaches of the GHS galaxy. Even so, I expect you to try your best to be on time. The attendance policy will be strictly enforced. Further, you will have an additional three (3) minutes to get to class after the bell rings.
- **NO** food or drink . . . except for water (in refillable water bottles ONLY), is permitted in any science room, especially this one, at any time.
- Be courteous and respectful to your classmates. Rude, disrespectful, or inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated.
- **BANNED ITEMS:** The use of chrome books/personal laptops/cell phones and any other distracting electronic device during class, is prohibited, unless approved by me. Cell phones, in accordance with the new school policy, are to be muted or off and kept in your backpack or in the classroom phone caddy during class. *Should anyone be found with a phone during class, the entire class will be required to place phones in the phone caddy.*

Absences:

If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to obtain any notes from a classmate or from the class website or Schoology. It is very important for you to keep up with the class. All work missed must be made up promptly. If you are absent on the day of a test, a make-up test must be taken in a time period in accordance with school policy. If you know that you will be called-out of school for an appointment, late arrival, early

dismissal, or a school-sponsored event, any assignment due that day is still due, and can be submitted electronically. Assignments can be placed in the appropriate homework tray in Room 908. Unexcused absences will be handled as class “cuts” and will be dealt with accordingly.

Extra-Help:

Extra-help sessions may be scheduled by speaking with me or by contacting me by email. My schedule is posted in several places: on Schoology, outside of our classroom (908), on my office door (906), and on the class website: www.apesbio.org

Inasmuch as meetings and other commitments also fill my daily schedule, don't wait until the last minute to schedule an extra-help session, plan ahead! It is your responsibility to seek extra-help when needed.

Website and Schoology:

The class website and/or Schoology, will be used nightly and is an integral part of the course, so get in the habit of checking it each and every day for both your assignments and other information you may require.

OK . . . let the games begin! I'm looking forward to working with all of you this semester!