

JAMESTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
State University of New York

Master Course Syllabus

Course Title: Animal Behavior

Course Abbreviation and Number: BIO 2640

Credit Hours: 3 **Division:** STEM **Course Type:** Lecture

Course Description: Students will master a variety of topics including the nature of instinct, biological basis of aggression, social communication, animal navigation and migration, mating and reproductive behavior, and territoriality. Both classical and recent studies, including those that deal with human behavior will be represented. Field trips may be an additional part of the course.

Prerequisite: a college biology or psychology course.

Course Attributes: E,L,N

(C=Career, E=Elective, H=Humanities, L=Liberal Arts & Sciences, N=Mathematics/Sciences, S=Social Sciences; VEDP=Values, Ethics & Diverse Perspectives)
4-letter codes represent SUNY General Education Courses, please see below to determine which SUNY General Education requirement(s) is met.

Student Learning Outcomes:

After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Differentiate between how animal behavior is studied by observation and experimentation.
2. Differentiate between proximate and ultimate causes of animal behavior.
3. Define and apply the following terms in the field of ethology: innate behavior, fixed action pattern, circadian rhythm, insight, habituation, imprinting, classical and operant conditioning, adaptation and anti-predation behavior, instinct, animal navigation and reproductive behavior.
4. Describe or apply the concepts related to the influence of environmental cues on rhythmic behaviors.
5. Describe how natural selection, genes and experience can influence behavior.
6. Describe the roles and origins of social behaviors in the animal kingdom including such areas as aggressive behavior, dominance hierarchy, territory, courtship ritual, communication, and cooperation.

Additional Student Learning Outcomes that meet SUNY General Education Requirements:

Does this course meet a SUNY General Education requirement(s)? Yes No

Topical Outline:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intro to the study of Animal Behavior• Darwin and Evolutionary Theory• Sampling techniques• Measuring animal behavior• The Anatomy and Physiology of Behavior• The Role of Genetics and Environment on Behavior• Learning• Communication in Animals | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Migration and navigation• Feeding Behavior• Adaptation and Anti-predation Behavior• Reproductive Behavior and Mating Systems• Aggression and Competition• Habitat Selection: Choosing where to live• Parental Care in Animals• Behavior in Social Groups |
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Signatures and Dates:

Discipline Director: Bob Ratterman (faculty) and Nancy Bryant (director)

Date: 1/19/2010

Assistant Dean: 

Date: 1/20/2010

Academic Affairs: CR

Date: 1/20/2010

Effective Date: Spring 2010