W2420 Animal Behavior Spring 2012

Dr. Sarah M. N. Woolley  
Office: 317 Schermerhorn Hall  
Office Hours: Wed 2-4:00 PM  Email: sw2277@columbia.edu

TAs  
Rahia Mashoodh  
Office: the rotunda, 3rd floor Schermerhorn Hall  
Office Hours: Thu 12-1:00 PM  Email: rm2713@columbia.edu  
For questions via email, write Rahia if your last name begins with A - H

Emma Draper-Reich  
Office: the rotunda, 3rd floor Schermerhorn Hall  
Office Hours: Wed 11 AM - 12:00 PM  Email: eed2134@columbia.edu  
For questions via email, write Emma if your last name begins with I - P

Adriana Varisco  
Office: the rotunda, 3rd floor Schermerhorn Hall  
Office Hours: Wed 4-5:00 PM  Email: anv2109@columbia.edu  
For questions via email, write Adriana if your last name begins with Q - Z

Textbook  

Schedule  
Tue Jan 17  Course introduction

Thu Jan 19  Principles of Ethology  
Reading: Snowden, CT (2004) Significance of Animal Behavior Research  
The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 1973 (translation from Swedish text)  
Analogy as a Source of Knowledge (1973) Konrad Lorenz  
Decoding the Language of Bees (1973) Karl Von Frisch

Tue Jan 24  Scientific Methods in the Analysis of Behavior  
Reading: Michael, RS (2002) Inquiry & Scientific Method  

Thu Jan 26  Evolution - principles of natural selection  
Reading: Alcock, Chapter 1  

Tue Jan 31  Evolution - adaptation, genetic traits, convergence and divergence  
Film: Great Transformations  
Thu Feb 2 Instinct and Learning
Reading: Alcock, Chapter 2

Tue Feb 7 Development of Behavior
Reading: Alcock, Chapter 3

Thu Feb 9 Catch Up and Review for Exam 1

Tue Feb 14 Exam 1

Thu Feb 16 Neural Control of Behavior - sensory structures, the brain, muscles, motor behavior
Reading: Alcock Chapter 4

Tue Feb 21 Neural Organization of Behavior
Reading: Alcock Chapter 5

Thu Feb 23 Specialized Traits for Survival - anti-predator behavior
Reading: Alcock, Chapter 6
Film: The Evolutionary Arms Race

Tue Feb 28 Specialized Traits for Survival - arms races, parasitism
Reading: Alcock, revisit Chapter 4 section on bats and moths

Thu Mar 1 Specialized Traits for Survival - acquiring resources
Reading: Alcock, Chapter 7

Tue Mar 6 Economics of Behavior

Thu Mar 8 Ecology of Behavior
Reading: Alcock, Chapter 8

Tue Mar 13 Spring Break

Thu Mar 15 Spring Break

Tue Mar 20 Animal Communication - signal, sender and receiver
Reading: Alcock, Chapter 9
Thu Mar 22  Evolution of Communication

Tue Mar 27  Catch Up and Review for Exam 2

Thu Mar 29  Exam 2

Tue Apr 3  Reproductive Behavior 1
Reading: Alcock, Chapters 10 & 11

Thu Apr 5  Reproductive Behavior 2
Film: Why Sex?

Tue Apr 10  Parental Behavior
Reading: Alcock, Chapter 12

Thu Apr 12  Social Behavior 1
Film: Winning Teams
Reading: Alcock, Chapter 13

Tue Apr 17  Social Behavior 2 - conspecific relationships

Thu Apr 19  Social Behavior 3 - relationships between species

Tue Apr 24  Human Behavior
Reading: Alcock, Chapter 14

Thu Apr 26  Catch Up and Review for Last Exam

THE FINAL EXAM IS ON TUESDAY MAY 8, 9 AM TO NOON, IN SCHERMERHORN 614